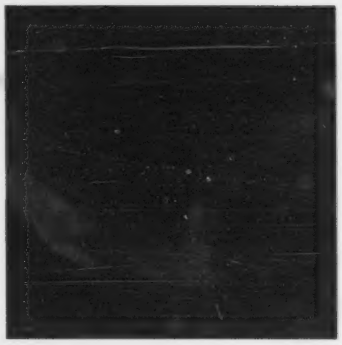
Catalogue no. 89-642-X — No. 007
ISSN 1923-3086
ISBN 978-1-100-19551-3

Analytical Paper

Portrait of Official-Language Minorities in Canada: Francophones in Alberta



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November 2011

Catalogue no. 89-642-X no. 007

ISSN 1923-3086

ISBN 978-1-100-19551-3

Frequency: Occasional

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Acknowledgements

This report was made possible thanks to the collaboration and financial support of Canadian Heritage's Official Languages Secretariat, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and Justice Canada.
The authors wish to specially thank Julie Bertrand of the Language Statistics Section of Statistics Canada for her technical support, professionalism and outstanding contribution in this project. As well, acknowledgements are given to Suzanne Belair, Mathieu Charron, René Houle, Michèle Lanoue, Claire Larocque, Elise Mennie, Evan Nip, Lucie Parisien, Daniel Pereira and Denis Theriault of the Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division for their important contribution in the completion of this project. Finally, the authors wish to thank Jean-Pierre Corbeil for his suggestions and relevant comments when revising earlier versions of the document.

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Introduction

This demolinguistic portrait of the French-speaking population in Alberta was undertaken with the financial support of Canadian Heritage's Official Languages Secretariat, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and Justice Canada. It is the seventh in a series of demolinguistic portraits of official-language minorities in Canada, prepared by Statistics Canada's Language Statistics Section.

This study paints a general statistical portrait of the official-language minority in Alberta based on data from censuses of Population and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities in Canada, conducted in 2006. The purpose of such a portrait is to present a set of characteristics, behaviours and perceptions of the minority official-language population, exploiting the analytical opportunities contained in the data.

This document is intended to be neither a mere collection of tables nor an in-depth study of the demolinguistic dynamics of the French-speaking population in Alberta. It presents a range of information on themes and issues that will interest official-language minorities and anyone interested in the past, present and future situation of minority official-language populations in Canada.

Section 1 of this demolinguistic portrait concerns the criteria used in this document to define Alberta's French-speaking population. It also provides a brief description of the data sources used.

Section 2 presents varied information on the evolution of the French-speaking population and its geographic distribution and concentration in Alberta. This includes a series of appended maps and a detailed table on the number, relative weight and distribution of the French-speaking population in Alberta.

Section 3 of this portrait concerns the main factors that affect or are affected by changes over time in this province's French-speaking population: fertility; the transmission of mother tongue and the effect of exogamy; the age structure; intragenerational linguistic mobility; and interprovincial and international migration. It also discusses the use of French in the public sphere and how the ability to conduct a conversation in that language has evolved according to mother-tongue group.

Section 4 looks at a few sectors essential to the vitality of minority official-language communities, as identified in the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013: Acting for the Future,*[1] namely health, justice, education and the media, the arts and culture. It also provides statistics on community participation, employment and income characteristics, and the use of French at work.

The last section of this portrait presents statistics on the identity of Francophones and their perceptions regarding the presence of French in their community, the provision of federal government services in French, the respect for linguistic rights, and the fact that people are working to develop the Francophone community.

1. When referring to this official-language strategy of the federal government, the expression "Roadmap" will be used throughout this report.

Section 1 Definitions of Alberta's French-speaking population

This statistical portrait of Alberta's official-language minority contains information drawn from variables from the Canadian censuses. Up to 2006, these included no fewer than six questions or sub-questions on official languages: knowledge of official languages, language spoken most often at home, other languages spoken on a regular basis at home, mother tongue, language used most often at work, and other languages used on a regular basis at work.

What is the definition of the minority official-language group in Alberta? How is a Francophone defined? There is actually no established definition. For historical reasons, Statistics Canada has generally used the criterion of mother tongue, that is, the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time of the census. Statistics based on mother tongue have the advantage of being roughly comparable going back more than half a century.

Other criteria are also used, opening the way for either more inclusive or more restrictive definitions of French-speaking persons. Thus, does the definition of a Francophone in Alberta apply to the roughly 65,000 persons who reported French as their mother tongue in the 2006 Census,[2] the 63,000 persons with French as their first official language spoken,[3] or the 57,000 persons[4] who speak French most often (24,000) or on a regular basis (33,000) at home? Or should a broader definition be considered? Such a definition might include all of the approximately 225,000 French speakers, or indeed more if we include young children who do not speak French, but who have at least one parent whose mother tongue is French. These are only a few examples of the variables that can be used to define language groups.[5]

Also, in choosing a strategy for estimating a language group, it is important to take into account at least two main options. On the one hand, if the objective is to enumerate the population considering all language groups on an equal basis—in other words, treating them symmetrically and creating mutually exclusive categories for estimating them (e.g., English, French, Other)—then this implies an appropriate allocation of multiple responses. In such a case, the French-mother-tongue population of Alberta would be nearly 65,000. On the other hand, if one wishes to focus on a single language group (e.g., Francophones), one can broaden the criteria for inclusion without being concerned about the implicit overlap between language groups. In this case, the number of French mother tongue persons in Alberta would be more than 68,000.

This statistical portrait of Alberta Francophones mainly uses two criteria: mother tongue and first official language spoken. The latter criterion is now used increasingly to define language groups in studies on official-language minorities. The reason for this is that the composition of the Canadian population has shifted over the years, calling on researchers to redefine or broaden the concept of Francophone group or community: a significant number of persons whose mother tongue is neither French nor English nevertheless use French either predominantly or commonly in their daily lives.

The concept of "first official language spoken" was created based on a number of considerations. Firstly, the substantial increase in immigration to Canada since the mid-1980s has had the effect of increasing the size of the population with a mother tongue other than English or French (20% in 2006). Such persons are often designated as "allophones."

Since an allophone cannot be a Francophone by reason of mother tongue but can become one by adopting French as the language used most often at home or in the public sphere, the question arises as to how to designate an individuals' first official language spoken, or more specifically, how to allocate allophones between English and French based on the reported knowledge of either official language.

2. The number is 68,435 if all single and multiple responses mentioning French are included (see Table 3.7).
3. Includes all single responses and half of English and French responses.
4. This number includes all single and multiple responses mentioning French.
5. To cite only one example, in June 2009, the Ontario government adopted a new, inclusive definition of the Francophone population (IDF) (formerly defined according to the mother tongue criterion). This definition is fairly similar to the one based on first official language spoken, except that it also includes French-mother tongue persons who understand French but can no longer conduct a conversation in it.

Questions of this type led to the development of different variants of the concept of first official language spoken (Statistics Canada, 1989). This concept echoes the spirit of the current version of the *Official Languages Act* (1988), which specifies in section 32(2) that the government may consider "the English or French linguistic minority population of the area served by an office or facility, the particular characteristics of that population and the proportion of that population to the total population of that area."

The concept of first official language was chosen by the federal government, in December 1991, in the Official Languages Regulations (*Communications with and Services to the Public*). Section 2 of the Regulations describes the method used to determine "the first official language spoken," namely the first of the two variants presented in Statistics Canada (1989), a method that successively takes into account the responses to the following questions: knowledge of official languages, mother tongue and language spoken most often at home. The "first official language spoken" variable is thus not a census question but is instead derived from three questions in the language module of the census.

The concept of first official language spoken (FOLS) serves to allocate the Canadian population between the country's two main language groups. In Canada, just over 97% of the population has either English or French as a first official language spoken. The residual portion is composed of persons who cannot conduct a conversation in either of the two official languages (1.6%) and persons who know both English and French but who cannot be assigned one or the other of the two official languages on the basis of the three census variables used for this purpose (1.1%).

Unlike the population with French as a mother tongue, the Francophone population according to the FOLS criterion excludes most persons for whom French is the mother tongue but who reported being unable to conduct a conversation in French at the time of the census. Also, it includes persons with an "other" mother tongue (i.e., other than English or French) who speak French most often at home as well as those who, while having an "other" language as the main home language, can also conduct a conversation in French but not in English. It also includes half the persons who can conduct a conversation in English and French who speak an "other" language or both official languages most often at home.

This report will draw a statistical portrait of Francophones in Alberta, primarily using the FOLS criterion, but when relevant, will also draw from information on mother tongue.[6] Following the practice of the Treasury Board Secretariat, Alberta's Francophone population will refer here to persons having only French as their first official language spoken (FOLS), or Francophone minority, and half the population who have both English and French as their FOLS, (and for whom it is not possible to assign either English or French based on responses to the three variables mentioned above).

6. In this report, the terms "Francophones," "French-speaking" and "Franco-Albertan" will be used interchangeably. Except when referring specifically to Francophones by the mother tongue criterion, this report uses the criterion of first official language spoken to designate the Francophone or French-speaking population. In this regard, the target population in this report differs slightly from the one in the report on the first results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities – 2006 (Corbeil, Grenier and Lafrenière, 2007).

Data sources

This portrait of the French-speaking population in Alberta contains information drawn from Canadian censuses from 1951 to 2006 and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM)[7] conducted in 2006 by Statistics Canada.

Census: The census data contained in this report are drawn from the long census questionnaire, completed by 20% of households and including 61 questions of which 7 are language-related.

Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM): This is a cross-sectional sample survey. Respondents to the SVOLM are selected from the sample of persons who completed the long questionnaire in the 2006 Census.

The survey focuses on Canada's official-language minorities, namely French-speaking persons outside Quebec and English-speaking persons in Quebec. The data can be used to gain a deeper understanding of the current situation of individuals belonging to these two groups on subjects as varied as education in the minority language, access to different services in the minority language (the health care sector in particular), language practices in daily activities both in the home and outside the home, and matters of linguistic identity.

7. For information on the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, the reader is invited to visit the Statistics Canada website at: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5099&lang=fr&db=imdb&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2

Section 2 Evolution of the population by mother tongue and first official language spoken

2.1 Evolution of the population by mother tongue

The French-mother-tongue population of Alberta increased by 89% from 1951 to 2006, going from 34,200 to 64,800 (see Table 2.1). However, that population decreased from 1981 to 1996. The increase in the Francophone population during the period 1951–2006 was much smaller than that of the other two language groups. In fact, the English-mother-tongue population quadrupled (increasing by 300%) to 2,593,400 in 2006, while the "other"-mother-tongue population more than doubled (with an increase of 133%), totalling 598,200 in 2006 compared with 256,900 in 1951.

Table 2.1
Population by mother tongue, Alberta, 1951 to 2006

Year	Mother tongue						
	Total	French		English		Other languages	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%
1951	**939,500**	34,195	3.6	648,415	69.0	256,890	27.3
1961	**1,331,945**	42,275	3.2	962,320	72.2	327,350	24.6
1971	**1,627,875**	46,750	2.9	1,262,840	77.6	318,285	19.5
1981	**2,213,640**	60,605	2.7	1,800,870	81.4	352,165	15.9
1991	**2,519,185**	56,730	2.3	2,045,905	81.2	416,550	16.5
1996	**2,669,195**	55,290	2.0	2,175,755	81.5	438,145	16.4
2001	**2,941,150**	62,240	2.1	2,395,770	81.5	483,135	16.4
2006	**3,256,360**	64,750	2.0	2,593,395	79.6	598,210	18.4

Note:
Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, multiple responses were equally redistributed among the three main linguistic groups. Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

Table 2.2 shows the average annual growth rate for the population of each mother tongue group. It reveals that since 1951, except for the period 1996–2001, the growth rate of the French-speaking population has been lower than that of the Anglophone population. As may also be seen, the average annual growth rates of both the Francophone and the Anglophone populations declined between the periods 1951–1961 and 2001–2006, going from 2.4% to 0.8% and from 4.8% to 1.7%, respectively. By contrast, the annual growth rate of the "other"-mother-tongue population increased, going from 2.7% (1951–1961) to 4.8% (2001–2006), reflecting the increase in international immigration.

Table 2.2
Yearly average population growth rate by mother tongue, Alberta, 1951 to 2006

Period	Mother tongue		
	French	English	Other languages
	percentage		
1951 to 1961	2.36	4.84	2.74
1961 to 1971	1.06	3.12	-0.28
1971 to 1981	2.96	4.26	1.06
1981 to 1991	-0.64	1.36	1.83
1991 to 1996	-0.51	1.27	1.04
1996 to 2001	2.51	2.02	2.05
2001 to 2006	0.81	1.65	4.76

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

The French-mother-tongue population outside Quebec resides mainly in two of its bordering provinces. The provinces of New Brunswick and Ontario alone accounted for 76% of all Francophones living outside Quebec in 2006. That same year, Alberta Francophones accounted for 6.6 % of the French-mother-tongue population outside Quebec, up slightly from 1951 when the proportion was 4.7% (see Table 2.3). Francophones constituted 2.0% of the overall population of Alberta in 2006. For the English-mother-tongue and "other"-mother-tongue populations, the proportions are 79.6% and 18.4% respectively (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.3
Number and proportion of Francophones in Alberta within the Francophone population outside Quebec, 1951 to 2006

Year	French mother tongue		Proportion of Francophones in Alberta
	Alberta	Canada less Quebec	
	number		percentage
1951	34,200	721,820	4.7
1961	42,275	853,465	5.0
1971	46,750	926,295	5.0
1981	60,605	923,605	6.6
1991	56,730	976,415	5.8
1996	55,290	970,205	5.7
2001	62,240	980,270	6.3
2006	64,745	975,390	6.6

Note:
The term Francophone refers to the mother tongue. Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, multiple responses were equally redistributed among the three main linguistic groups.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

2.2 Evolution of the population by first official language spoken

As described in Section 1, the criterion of the first official language spoken (FOLS) offers a more inclusive definition of the Francophone population: it allows persons with mother tongues other than English or French to be included in the Anglophone or Francophone population. Most persons with "other" mother tongues are generally counted as part of the majority FOLS group. Nevertheless, the population with French as first official language spoken is usually larger than the French-mother-tongue population in a province such as Ontario, for example, where a large proportion of persons have a mother tongue other than English or French. In Alberta, use of the FOLS criterion has very little effect on the size of the Francophone population, despite the presence of allophones. The relative share of the Francophone minority (according to the first official language spoken criterion) within the overall population of Alberta is 1.9% (62,790) (see Table 2.4), while that of the French-mother-tongue population is 2.0% (64,750) (after equal allocation of multiple responses). However, it is worth noting that the French FOLS population is 58,575 if the 4,210 persons with a double FOLS are excluded. As for the Anglophone population, its relative share is 79.6% according to the mother tongue criterion and 96.7% according to the FOLS criterion, which demonstrates the strong historical tendency for allophones to adopt English.

Table 2.4
Population by first official language spoken, Alberta, 1971 to 2006

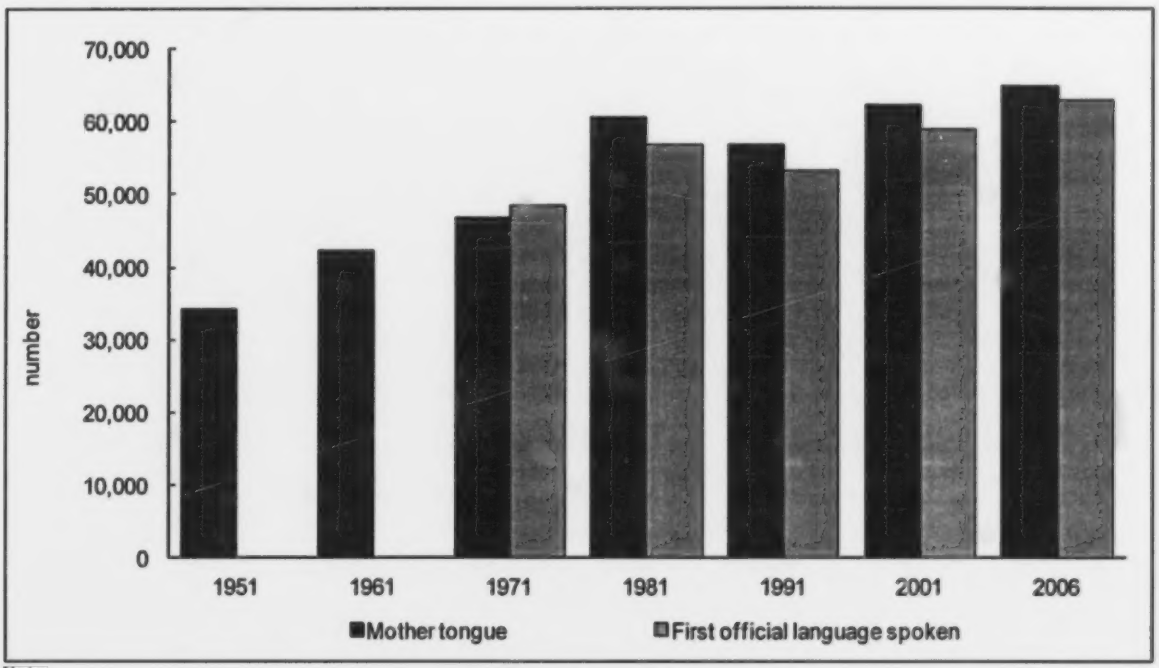
Year	First official language spoken										
	Total	French		English		English and French		Neither English nor French		Francophone minority[1]	
	number	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
1971	**1,627,875**	47,300	2.9	1,560,210	95.8	2,375	0.1	17,990	1.1	48,485	3.0
1981	**2,213,650**	53,250	2.4	2,132,395	96.3	7,065	0.3	20,940	0.9	56,785	2.6
1991	**2,519,180**	50,565	2.0	2,433,560	96.6	5,430	0.2	29,635	1.2	53,280	2.1
1996	**2,669,195**	49,390	1.9	2,580,675	96.7	6,220	0.2	32,910	1.2	52,500	2.0
2001	**2,941,150**	55,645	1.9	2,848,785	96.9	6,355	0.2	30,365	1.0	58,825	2.0
2006	**3,256,355**	58,575	1.8	3,150,175	96.7	8,420	0.3	39,185	1.2	62,790	1.9

1. Total of French first official language spoken (FOLS) and half of English and French FOLS.
Note: Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

According to the results shown in Chart 2.1, the French-mother-tongue population in 2006 was slightly larger than the French FOLS population, with a difference of just under 2,000. Generally, when the French-mother-tongue population is equal to the French FOLS population, this means that persons with mother tongues other than English or French are not integrating linguistically to the advantage of the minority language. When the French-mother-tongue population is larger than the French FOLS population, this means that, as well as "other"-mother-tongue persons not being integrated, some persons with French as their mother tongue no longer know French (but do know English) well enough to conduct a conversation in it. For this reason, they are included in the English FOLS group.

From 1971 to 2006, the size gap between the French-mother-tongue population and the French FOLS population showed little change. The smallest difference observed between these two populations is 1,735 in 1971, while the largest is 3,820 in 1981. In 1971, the French-mother-tongue population was smaller than the French FOLS population. However, since 1981 the French-mother-tongue population has exceeded the French FOLS population.

Chart 2.1
Number of persons with French as mother tongue and as first official language spoken, Alberta, 1951 to 2006



Note:
Since the question on language used most often at home was asked for the first time on the 1971 Census, we cannot derive the first official language spoken variable before 1971. Except for the 1951 to 1971 censuses, multiple responses were equally redistributed.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2006.

2.3 Geographic distribution of the population with French as first official language spoken

The proportion of the Francophone minority within the overall population of Alberta is 1.9%. Nearly seven Franco-Albertans in 10 reside in two census divisions (CDs): Division No. 6[8] (30% of the province's Francophones or 19,125 persons) and Division No.11[9] (36% of the province's Francophones or 22,805 persons) (see Appendix A). Furthermore, more than half of the province's Francophones live in the cities of Calgary (27%) and Edmonton (24%).

8. This census division includes the city of Calgary.
9. This census division includes the city of Edmonton.

2.4 Relative proportion within municipalities of residence and geographic concentration index

In this statistical portrait, we do not merely present aggregate information on Alberta's Francophones as a whole. Because Francophones are not distributed evenly among these various geographic entities and because their proportion varies from one census division (CD) or census subdivision (CSD) to another within the regions, it is quite useful to present statistics that take into account their relative share within their municipality of residence. In other words, the proportion of Francophones within their municipality has more influence on their perceptions and their linguistic practices than does their proportion within a larger region.

We therefore examined the distribution of Francophones in Alberta according to the relative weight of their language group within their municipality of residence (see Table 2.5). This revealed that the vast majority (94%) of Francophones live in a municipality where they constitute less than 10% of the population. Moreover, 3% of Alberta Francophones live in a municipality where their relative weight is between 10% and 29%, and 2% live in a municipality where they constitute between 30% and 49% of the population. In the province as a whole, just under 800 Franco-Albertans—barely more than 1% of the province's Francophones—live in a municipality in which they constitute the majority.

Table 2.5
Number and proportion of Francophones by their relative weight within the municipality of residence, Alberta, 2006

Relative weight within the municipality	Francophone	
	number	percentage
0 to 9%	58,830	93.8
10 to 29%	1,910	3.0
30 to 49%	1,195	1.9
50 to 69%	785	1.3
70% and over	...	...
Total	**62,725**	**100.0**

Note:
The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken. The total number of persons with French as first official language spoken differs slightly from the numbers in other tables presented in this portrait. This difference results from the random rounding and random distribution mode of the "English-French" category.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table A in Appendix A and the maps preceding it show, for 2006, the relative weight of the Francophone population within each of the census divisions and selected census subdivisions included in them.

Information on the proportion of Francophones within their municipality of residence is quite useful in analysing Francophones' perceptions and language behaviours. However, the municipalities vary in size, and in the case of urban agglomerations, for example, this information does not reveal whether Francophones are spread throughout the municipality or are concentrated in certain specific areas.

As noted above, Francophones live in specific regions, and in these regions, their proportion within municipalities is variable. It is also useful to distinguish municipalities where Francophones are concentrated within a specific part of the geographic area from those where they do not exhibit any particular concentration. For this purpose, the distribution of Francophones throughout the geographic area is presented here using a concentration index[10] (see Table 2.6). The concentration of a language group within a given area, like its relative weight, will influence the potential language practices of its members.

10. See Appendix D for a description of the concentration index and the concept of dissemination area.

Table 2.6
Distribution of Francophones within the region of residence according to the concentration index within their municipality of residence, Alberta, 2006

Concentration in the municipality	pourcentage
Weak	87.3
Average	9.7
Strong	3.0
Total	**100.0**

Note: The term Francophone refers to the total French first official language spoken(FOLS) and half the French and English FOLS.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 2.6 shows that a large majority (87%) of Franco-Albertans are weakly concentrated within their municipality of residence, while for nearly 10% their concentration is average and for 3% it is strong.

Section 3 Factors influencing the evolution of the French-mother–tongue population

How the language groups in a given province or region evolve depends on the combined effect of different factors: on the one hand, the determinants of natural increase—fertility and mortality—and on the other hand, internal and international migration. An additional factor is intergenerational linguistic continuity, that is, the mother-to-child transmission of the mother tongue.[11] Yet another factor will also be described in this section, namely intragenerational linguistic continuity or its obverse, language substitution or transfer. The latter, while it does not directly influence how a language group evolves in the short term, can nevertheless have a major long- term influence, in that the language predominantly used in the home is generally the one transmitted to the children.

This section will mainly focus on the French-mother-tongue group in Alberta. However, some of the analysis— particularly on interprovincial migration and international immigration—will also cover the population with French as the first official language spoken.

3.1 Fertility

During the first half of the twentieth century, differences in fertility between language groups partly accounted for the growth or maintenance of the population of some groups in relation to others. In Alberta in the 1950s and 1960s, Francophone women exhibited higher fertility than Anglophone or allophone women. This high fertility of Francophones partially offset the unfavourable effects of international immigration insofar as the latter favoured the growth of the English-mother-tongue population.

Data drawn from the censuses show that the total fertility rate of Francophone women declined so steeply that over a period of only 20 years (1956–1961 to 1971–1976), the average number of children per woman went from 5.04 to 2.05 (see Table 3.1). There was also a drop in fertility among women with English as their mother tongue, but it was less dramatic, going from 4.06 to 1.98 during the same period. During the succeeding five-year periods, the fertility trends of Francophone and Anglophone women in Alberta converged, with the result that during the period 2001–2006, their total fertility rates were nearly identical at 1.57 and 1.67 respectively.

Demographers have determined that in the current conditions of low mortality, the replacement level corresponds to a rate of 2.1, that is, 2,100 children per 1,000 women. As may be seen in Table 3.1, the fertility level of Francophone and Anglophone women fell below the replacement level starting in the period 1971–1976, while for women with an "other" mother tongue, this phenomenon occurred much later, during the period 1986–1991.

Since the period from 1971 to 1976, the total fertility rate of women with a mother tongue other than English or French has exceeded that of their Francophone counterparts. In this regard, however, caution is warranted when examining the effect of higher fertility for "other"-mother-tongue women. This phenomenon does not necessarily translate into an increase in this group's population compared with the others. As will be seen further on, the transmission of an "other" mother tongue to children—generally the community's majority language—is a significant phenomenon.

11. Of course, a language is also transmitted from fathers to their children, but it is usually the mother's language that predominates.

Table 3.1
Total fertility rate by mother tongue, Alberta, 1956 to 2006

Five-year period	Children per woman			
	All languages	French	English	Other languages
	number			
1956 to 1961	4.11	5.04	4.06	4.05
1961 to 1966	3.73	4.57	3.62	3.86
1966 to 1971	2.73	3.19	2.58	3.06
1971 to 1976	2.07	2.05	1.98	2.47
1976 to 1981	1.85	1.77	1.77	2.34
1981 to 1986	1.85	1.81	1.78	2.32
1986 to 1991	1.83	1.74	1.80	1.99
1991 to 1996	1.78	1.75	1.76	1.93
1996 to 2001	1.68	1.66	1.64	1.86
2001 to 2006	1.71	1.57	1.67	1.91

Note: The method used to calculate the fertility rate is taken from Lachapelle (1988).
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1956 to 2006.

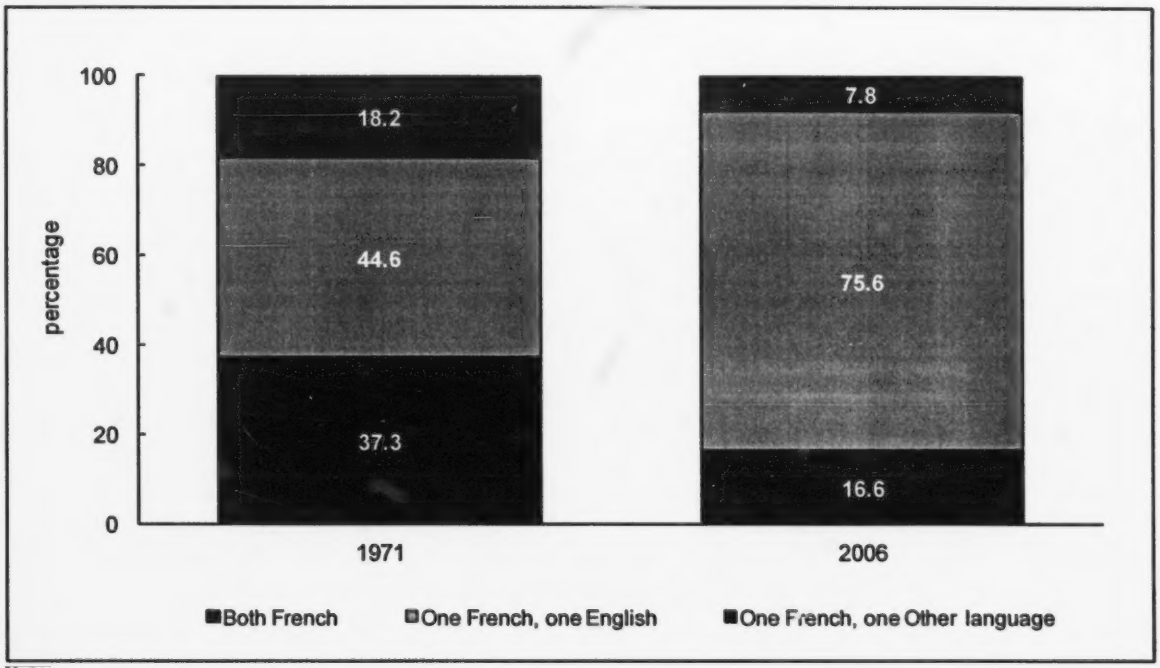
3.2 Transmission of mother tongue and the effect of exogamy

Although the total fertility rate provides useful information on the number of births within different mother-tongue groups, it does not shed light on the mother tongue transmitted to children. The tendency to transmit a language to one's children varies according to a number of factors; one of the most important of these is the geographic concentration of the population comprising a given language group. This geographic concentration factor also influences the propensity to form an exogamous couple, that is, a couple in which the spouses[12] do not have the same mother tongue. Also, the lower the geographic concentration or relative weight of a language group in a given community, the lower the propensity of parents to transmit the minority language. In Alberta, at the time of the 2006 Census, French had been passed on as a mother tongue to 23% of the children of couples in which at least one spouse had French as a mother tongue.

From 1971 to 2006, the proportion of children from a French-English exogamous family among all families with at least one French-mother-tongue parent increased in Alberta, going from 45% to 76%. Conversely, the share of children living in an endogamous family with both parents having French as their mother tongue and the share of children whose parents formed an French-"other"-tongue exogamous couple both declined substantially, going from 37% and 18% respectively in 1971 to 17% and 8% in 2006 (see Chart 3.1).

12. In this study, the term "spouse" includes persons that are legally married as well as those that are in a common-law union.

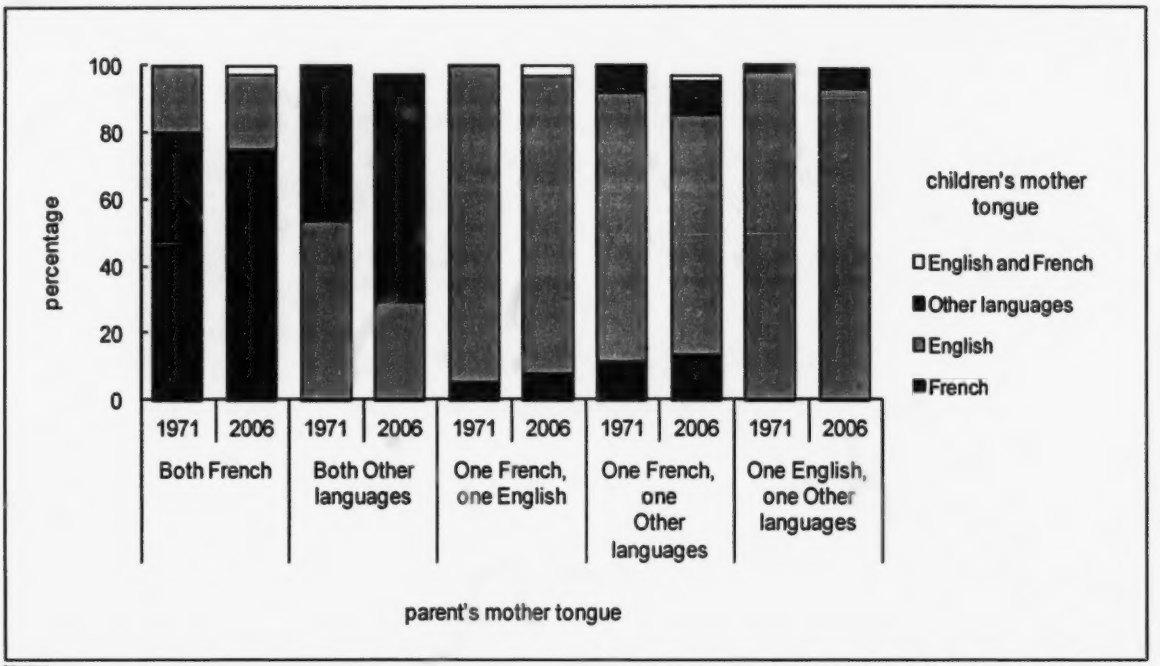
Chart 3.1
Proportion of children under 18 years of age living in a family where at least one parent is of French-mother tongue, by mother tongue of parents, Alberta, 1971 and 2006



Note:
For 2006, multiple responses were equally redistributed among language groups. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

Because of the increase in the proportion of French-English exogamous couples from 1971 to 2006, one might expect to see a decrease in the rate of transmission of the minority language (in this case, French) to children. However, it remained fairly stable. Whereas French had been passed on to 5% of the children under 18 years of age of French-English exogamous couples in 1971, the proportion was 8% in 2006 (see Chart 3.2). There was also an increase in the transmission of French to the children of French-"other"-language exogamous couples, from 12% to 14% during the same period. By contrast, among Francophone endogamous couples, the transmission of French to children under 18 years of age declined, going from 80% in 1971 to 75% in 2006.

Chart 3.2
Mother tongue of children under 18 years of age, by mother tongue of parents, Alberta, 1971 and 2006



Note:
For 2006, only single responses were used for the parents, whereas in the case of children, among the multiple responses, only the "English and French" category was taken into account. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

From 1971 to 2006, an increase is observed in the rate of transmission of French to the children of French-English exogamous couples in which the French-mother-tongue parent is the mother. However, among families in which the French-mother-tongue parent is the father, the rate remained stable. Thus, the census data show that the rate of transmission of French by French-mother-tongue mothers to their children rose sharply, from 5% in 1971 to 18% in 2006, whereas the rate for French-mother-tongue fathers slipped from 6% to 5% over the same period.

Table 3.2 shows that from 1971 to 2006, among exogamous couples with one French-mother-tongue spouse, there was an increase in the proportion of spouses with a mother tongue other than French who could conduct a conversation in French and English. Thus, the increased transmission of French to children living in exogamous families appears to go hand in hand with an increase in the French-English bilingualism of non-Francophone spouses. This increase is especially notable among "other"-mother-tongue male spouses in a union with a French-mother-tongue woman: whereas in 1971 their French-English bilingualism rate was 13%, in 2006 it was 21%, the highest bilingualism rate among all non-Francophone spouses in exogamous unions. The increase in the level of knowledge of French was smaller among English-mother-tongue male and female spouses and "other"-mother-tongue female spouses in an exogamous union with a Francophone spouse. The bilingualism rate for Anglophone male and female spouses went from 11% to 12% and from 11% to 15%, respectively, from 1971 to 2006; that of allophone female spouses was 10% in 1971 and 11% in 2006.

Table 3.2
Proportion of spouses with a mother tongue other than French who can conduct a conversation in both English and French, by the couple's language combination, Alberta, 1971 and 2006

Couple's language combination	1971	2006
	percentage	
English male spouse and French female spouse	11.0	12.0
French male spouse and English female spouse	10.5	14.6
Other language male spouse and French female spouse	12.8	20.8
French male spouse and other language female spouse	9.6	11.4

Note: Only single responses were used.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

It is also worth noting that in 2006, 6.8% of French-mother-tongue women living with an English-speaking male spouse spoke French most often at home, compared with 4.4% of French-mother-tongue men living with an English-speaking female spouse. Thirty-five years earlier in 1971, the proportions were 3.2% in both cases.

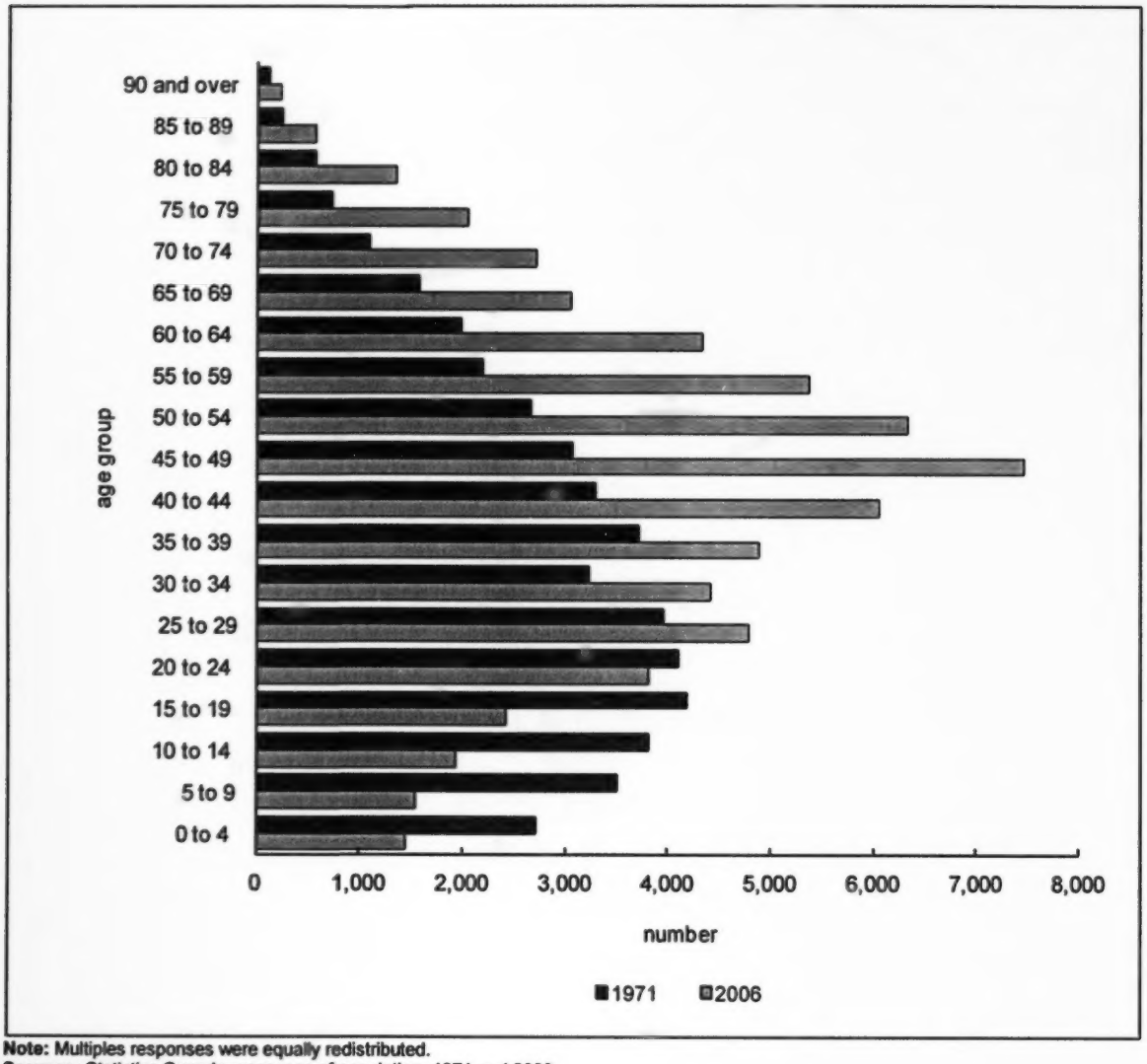
3.3 Age structure

It is useful to examine how the age structure of Alberta's Francophone population has evolved, so as to be able to reveal part of that population's demographic history while providing an indication of its future course. From 1971 to 2006, this evolution is essentially the result of a decreased total fertility rate of Francophone women, a positive net interprovincial migration of the French-mother-tongue population, an increased life expectancy and a rise in international immigration. Added to all these phenomena is a low level of transmission to children of French as a mother tongue, for as noted above, at the time of the 2006 Census, French was passed on as a mother tongue to just over one child in five under 18 years of age with at least one French-mother-tongue parent.

Chart 3.3 shows how the age structure of Alberta's French-mother-tongue population has changed over time. As already noted, from 1971 to 2006 this language group saw its number grow by 39%, from 46,750 to 64,750. However, not all cohorts registered an increase. Firstly, the cohorts under 25 years of age decreased in size, owing to a drop in the fertility of Francophone women that was due in part to a fertility rate below the replacement level. Secondly, the number of persons aged 30 and over was up because of sizable migration of the French-mother-tongue population from other provinces and territories and outside Canada. However, part of the increase in the number of seniors is explained by the aging of the population and increased life expectancy.

In 2006, the number of children under the age of 5 (1,455) was smaller than the number of adults aged 25 to 29 (4,780)—the average childbearing age—, by a ratio of 0.30. By comparison, in 1971 the ratio was 0.68 (2,705/3,960). Also, as shown in Chart 3.3, the baby boom generation (born from 1946 to 1966), which corresponded in 1971 to the 5-9 to 20-24 age cohorts is much smaller than the 40-44 to 55-59 age cohorts 35 years later (15,615 versus 25,215). These findings are largely explained by the migration of Francophones to Alberta from other provinces or territories or from outside Canada.

Chart 3.3
***Age structure of the* French mother tongue population, Alberta, 1971 and 2006**



Note: Multiples responses were equally redistributed.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

All things being otherwise equal, the low numbers of the youngest cohorts in 2006, combined with the fact that over the coming decades, a number of cohorts will reach age 65, will result in an age structure that reflects considerable aging of the French-mother-tongue population. Already in 2006, the proportion of Francophones aged 65 and over was twice the proportion of those aged less than 15 years.

While the aging of the French-mother-tongue population is mainly due to a low fertility rate and a steady increase in life expectancy, it can be assumed that it also results from non-transmission of French as a mother tongue to children. As noted above, the rate of intergenerational transmission of French, in families composed of French-English exogamous couples, is low, although it increased from 1971 to 2006 (see Chart 3.2). Instead, it was predominantly English (89%) that these exogamous couples passed on to their children in 2006.

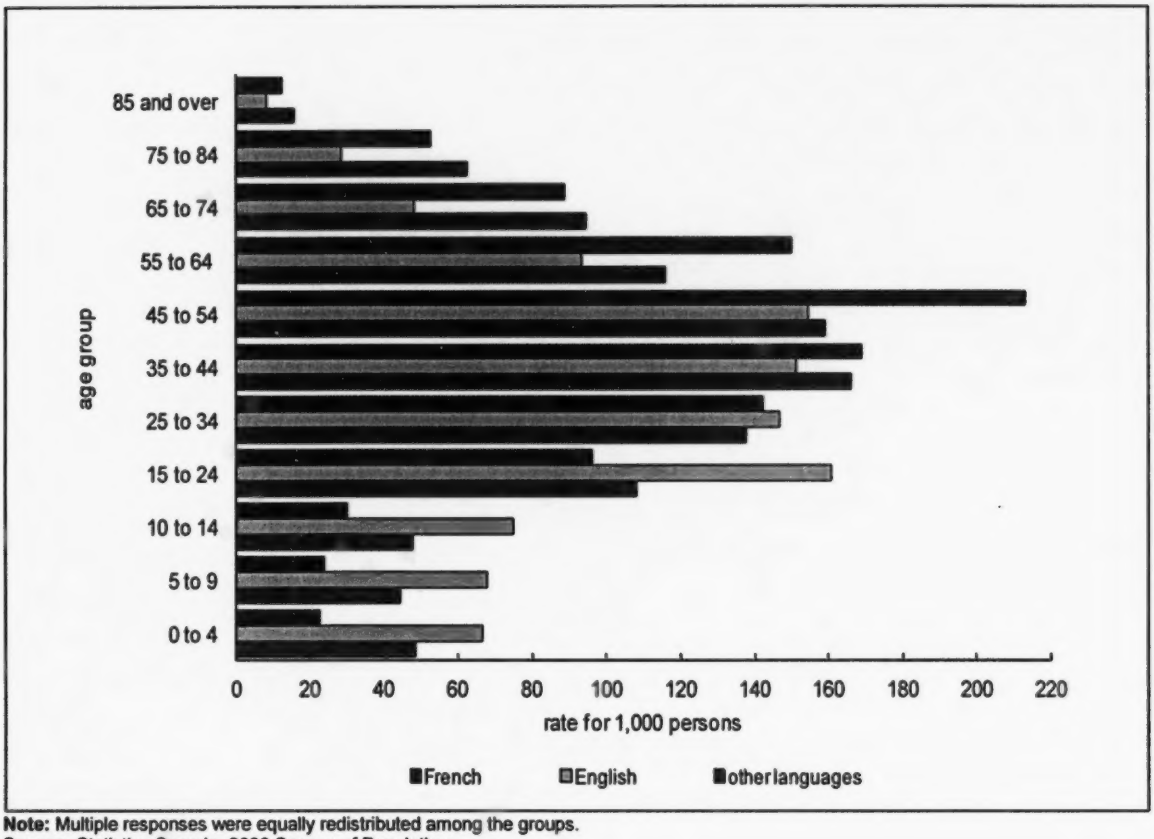
Overall during this period, the Francophone population was not favoured by intergenerational linguistic continuity. This phenomenon is measured by determining the ratio of the number of French-mother-tongue children under 5 years of age to the number of children whose mother has French as her mother tongue.[13] In Alberta, this index was 0.42 in 2006, down from 1971 when it was 0.49. It is useful to note that "[a] language group emerges at the top of the mother tongue transmission process when the index is higher than 1 [...]. Conversely, transfers are unfavourable to a mother tongue when the index is less than 1." (Lachapelle and Lepage, 2011, p. 86). In the case of Alberta, intergenerational transmission remained unfavourable to the French-mother-tongue population in that this intergenerational continuity index is less than 1.[14]

The steep drop in births exhibited by the French-mother-tongue group in the past 35 years is not unique to this language group. Chart 3.4 shows the age structure of the main mother-tongue groups in 2006. While the relative share of cohorts under 35 years of age in the English-mother-tongue group is greater than in the other two groups, the consequences of a fertility rate below the replacement level are also apparent among persons under 15 years of age in this language group. But unlike the French-mother-tongue and "other"-mother-tongue groups, the Anglophone group benefited from the contribution of intergenerational linguistic mobility from the other two groups.

It should also be noted that the French-mother-tongue group's over-representation in the cohorts aged 35 to 64 is greater than for the other two language groups, owing to the migration of many Francophone workers from outside the province.

13. To establish this ratio, demographers generally look at children living in a two-parent family or a one-parent family headed by a woman, which account for more than 97% of all children in this age group.
14. For an in-depth examination of this approach, see Lachapelle and Lepage (2011).

Chart 3.4
Age structure of French, English and "other"-mother-tongue populations, Alberta, 2006 (rate per 1,000)



Note: Multiple responses were equally redistributed among the groups.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

3.4 Language transfers or intragenerational linguistic mobility

Language transfers, also sometimes called language shifts, refer to the phenomenon where the main language used at home differs from the individual's mother tongue. This language mobility phenomenon has no direct bearing on the evolution of language groups defined according to mother tongue. However, insofar as the language that dominates in the home is generally the one that is passed on to the children, it has a long-term influence on the future of language groups. Also, when the criterion used to define language groups is the first official language spoken, the language spoken most often at home has a direct influence on the size of the Francophone group. For example, according to this criterion, persons who have knowledge of both official languages and who have either English or French or another language as a mother tongue are part of the French-speaking group if they speak French most often at home.[15]

15. As noted earlier, persons with an "other" mother tongue who know only French are assigned French as their first official language spoken, regardless of whether they speak that language most often at home.

Through successive censuses, there has been an increase in language transfer rate for persons with French as a mother tongue in Alberta. Thus, in 1971, approximately 54% of Albertans with French as a mother tongue reported using another language, usually English, most often at home. Thirty-five years later, 69% of French-mother-tongue persons reported speaking a language other than French most often at home. Among English-mother-tongue persons, the proportion of language transfers was almost nil and remained stable over the period, registering 0.6% in 1971 and 0.4% in 2006. Among "other"-mother-tongue persons, language transfers declined over the past 35 years, going from 62% in 1971 to 46% in 2006. This major decrease is essentially the result of a strong increase in the immigrant population.

Table 3.3
Rate of language transfer by mother tongue, Alberta, 1971 to 2006

Year	Mother tongue		
	French	English	Other languages
	percentage		
1971	54.1	0.6	62.2
1981	52.7	0.4	55.5
1991	64.8	0.2	52.0
2001	68.1	0.3	49.7
2006	69.4	0.4	45.9

Note:
With the exception of 1971, only single responses were considered for mother tongue, whereas all responses were considered for the main language used at home.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

A linguistic continuity index can also be used as a corollary to the language transfer rate. This index is the ratio of the number of persons with a given home language to the number of persons with the corresponding mother tongue. A language group emerges at the top of the mother tongue transmission process when the index is higher than 1. Conversely, transfers are unfavourable to a language group when the index is less than 1.

According to the statistics in Table 3.4, the French-mother-tongue group saw its linguistic continuity index fall from 0.49 to 0.33 during the period from 1971 to 2006, while that of the Anglophone group declined only slightly, from 1.17 to 1.12. The index for the "other"-mother-tongue group rose from 0.40 to 0.53 during the same period. The sizeable increase in the continuity index for persons with a mother tongue other than English or French is clearly due to the strong increase in their numbers from 1971 to 2006.

Table 3.4
Population by mother tongue, language spoken most often at home and linguistic continuity index, Alberta, 1971 and 2006

Linguistic characteristics	1971			2006		
	French	English	Other languages	French	English	Other languages
	number					
Language spoken most often at home	22,695	1,477,960	127,215	21,350	2,915,865	319,145
Mother tongue	46,750	1,262,840	318,280	64,750	2,593,395	598,215
Linguistic continuity index (%)	0.49	1.17	0.40	0.33	1.12	0.53

Note:
For 2006, multiple responses were equally redistributed among language groups. The 1971 Census database does not include multiple responses.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 and 2006.

The continuity index of 0.33 for the French-mother-tongue group takes into account the fact that in Alberta, 1,195 persons have an "other" mother tongue and speak French most often at home (Table 3.5). It also takes into account that 1,375 persons with English as their mother tongue have French as their main home language.

Table 3.5
Population by mother tongue and language spoken most often at home, Alberta, 2006

Mother Tongue		Language spoken most often at home			
		French	English	Other languages	Total
French	number	17,820	43,135	275	61,225
	percentage	29.1	70.4	0.4	100.0
English	number	1,375	2,564,415	10,880	2,576,665
	percentage	0.1	99.5	0.4	100.0
Other languages	number	1,195	282,040	300,295	583,530
	percentage	0.2	48.3	51.5	100.0
Total	number	20,385	2,889,590	311,445	3,221,425

Note:
There is equal redistribution of multiple responses to the language spoken most often at home question and of single responses to the mother tongue question. Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Because the main home language of individuals may differ from their mother tongue, the concept of language transfer has often been seen as indicating abandonment of one's mother tongue. But since 2001, the Canadian census has included a question on languages, other than the main language, that are spoken on a regular basis at home. Although it may be difficult to judge how respondents interpret this new question, qualitative tests conducted on respondents as well as the results from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) have shown that respondents usually consider it to refer to the daily use of that language.

Based on the census results for this question, a distinction can be made between partial and complete language transfer. As a corollary to this distinction, there is a need to nuance the concept of linguistic continuity, since using one's mother tongue on a regular basis at home cannot automatically be interpreted as linguistic discontinuity.

In 2006, more than 19,315 Albertans spoke French as the only main language at home, while 4,200 persons reported speaking that language most often in combination with English or another language (Table 3.6). Thus, 0.7% of Albertans reported French as their main home language. Statistics drawn from the 2006 Census also show that 33,170 reported speaking French on a regular basis at home although it was not their main home language (see Table 3.7). In short, French was spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by 1.7% of the population, or approximately 56,700 persons.

Table 3.6
Population by mother tongue, language spoken most often at home and other languages spoken regularly at home, Alberta, 2006

Type of answer	Mother tongue		Language spoken most often at home		Other languages spoken regularly at home	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Single responses	**3,221,420**	**98.9**	**3,210,510**	**98.6**	**301,265**	**9.3**
French	61,225	1.9	19,315	0.6	30,000	0.9
English	2,576,665	79.1	2,893,235	88.8	135,470	4.2
Other languages	583,530	17.9	297,955	9.1	135,790	4.2
Multiple responses	**34,935**	**1.1**	**45,845**	**1.4**	**4,185**	**0.1**
English and French	5,405	0.2	3,340	0.1	320	0.0
English and other	27,725	0.9	41,645	1.3	1,010	0.0
French and other	1,325	0.0	460	0.0	2,780	0.1
English French and other	480	0.0	400	0.0	70	0.0
Total	**3,256,355**	**100.0**	**3,256,360**	**100.0**	...	...

Note: Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 3.7
Number and proportion of persons with French as mother tongue, first official language spoken, language spoken most often at home and language spoken regularly at home, Alberta, 2006

French language	number	percentage
Mother tongue	68,435	2.1
First official language spoken	67,000	2.1
Language spoken at least regularly at home	56,690	1.7
Language spoken most often at home	23,515	0.7
Language spoken regularly at home	33,175	1.0

Note: Single and multiple responses combined.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

One can use information on the regular use of French as a secondary language in the home to distinguish complete language transfers from partial language transfers. Accordingly, based on single responses to the question on the first language learned and still understood at the time of the 2006 Census (usually called the mother tongue), Table 3.8 shows that for Alberta as a whole, 46% of persons with French as their mother tongue do not use French at least regularly at home (complete transfer), whereas 23% use it on a regular basis (partial transfer). Consequently, French is the main home language for only 31% of Francophones. It is also worth noting that in Alberta, Francophones who make a language transfer almost always transfer to English.

The rates for complete and partial language transfers are known to vary by age group. In Alberta, statistics from the 2006 Census show that the older Francophones are, the more likely they are to have made a complete language transfer, except for persons aged 65 and over. Francophones aged 55 to 64 are more inclined to use a language other than French at home (58%) than those in other age groups, whereas those under 15 years of age are less likely to do so (14%). For partial language transfers, Francophones aged 15 to 54 have the highest rates (between 25% and 27%). As for complete language transfers, rates for this group vary from 30% to 51% depending on the age group. The table shows that among Francophones aged 15 to 54, French is the main home language for 23% to 43%, depending on the age group. The proportion is 65% for Francophones under 15 years of age.

Table 3.8
Rate of complete and partial language transfers of Francophones by age group, Alberta, 2006

Age group	Language transfers		
	Complete	Partial	Total
	percentage		
0 to 14	14.1	20.6	**34.7**
15 to 24	29.8	26.9	**56.6**
25 to 34	38.3	25.2	**63.5**
35 to 54	50.5	26.4	**76.9**
55 to 64	57.6	20.1	**77.6**
65 and over	55.8	15.6	**71.3**
Total	**46.2**	**23.2**	**69.4**

Note:
The term Francophone refers to the mother tongue. Only single responses were used for mother tongue, whereas all responses were considered for the main language used at home.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Exogamy is often associated with language transfer for Francophones outside Quebec. Indeed, 94% of Alberta Francophones who live in an exogamous union with an English-mother-tongue spouse speak English most often at home. However, data drawn from the 2006 Survey of the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) serve to better document the link between exogamy and language transfer among Francophones. These data show that for more than half of Francophones, language transfer took place well before a union was formed with an Anglophone spouse: approximately 71% of Francophones who live in an exogamous situation began to speak English most often at home before age 21 and 46% did so before age 15. Among Francophones between 25 and 44 years of age—those likely to have young children—the proportions were 78% and 69% respectively. Thus, it is not only exogamy that has a direct bearing on the fact that a Francophone speaks English most often at home. In fact, these results suggest that living in a highly minority situation increases the use of the majority language in daily activities; influences the main language of Francophones in the medium term; and ultimately affects the propensity to choose an English-speaking spouse. In any event, the relationship between exogamy and home language definitely operates in both directions.

The SVOLM data shed light on the association that tends to be established between language transfer and anglicization. The survey includes a question on respondents' main language, that is, the language in which they are most at ease in speaking. The data show that 45% of the population for whom French is the first official language spoken have either French (26%) or both official languages (19%) as main languages.

Overall in Alberta, a greater proportion of Francophones report using English most often at home (complete and partial language transfers) than the proportion of Francophones that report being more at ease in English than in French.[16] Thus, around 70% of Franco-Albertans report speaking English[17] most often at home while 54% report being more at ease in English than in French.

16. This finding applies to both the French-mother-tongue population and the population with French as first official language spoken.
17. This proportion includes single and multiple responses. Therefore it includes 4% of Francophones who report using both French and English as languages spoken most often at home.

3.5 Use of French in the public sphere

Statistics from the Census of Population shed light on the use of languages both in the private sphere (at home) and in the workplace, as we will see in the section dealing with the labour force. But what do we know about the use of English and French by Franco-Albertans in domains of interaction other than in the home?

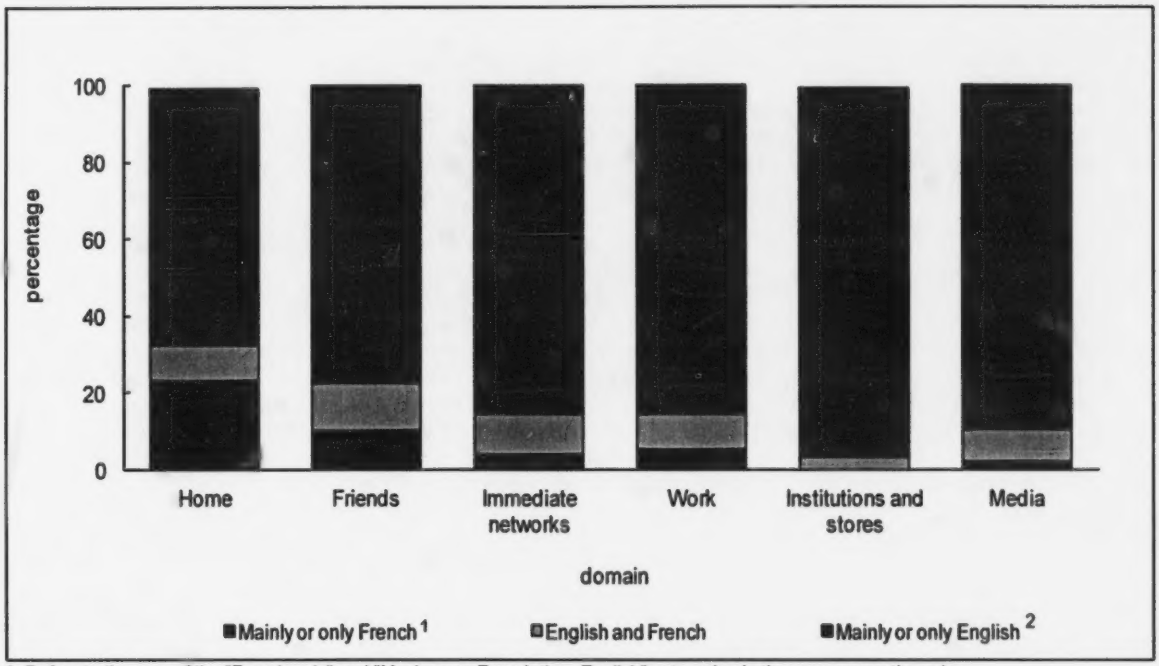
The Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) includes a number of questions on the use of languages in various domains of the public sphere such as stores, health care institutions (which will be examined in detail in the next section), volunteer activities, social support, community or sports activities, etc. Some questions in the survey also deal with domains on the borderline between private and public spheres, such as the language spoken with friends outside the home or the language in which various media are "consumed."

An examination of language practices in various domains of the public and private spheres reveals that in Alberta, the population whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is French mainly uses English in both spheres (see Chart 3.5). The use of English as the predominant language (mainly or only) in the home was reported by 67%; 23% spoke mainly or only French there. But the most widespread use of English is in oral interactions that take place in institutions and stores, where 96% of the French FOLS population use it predominantly while 75% use it exclusively. Beyond the language choices at home and in institutions and stores, the extent to which English is used within immediate networks, at work and in the consumption of media is roughly similar, ranging from 86% to 90% depending on the domain. With friends, the SVOLM data show that 78% of persons for whom French is the first official language spoken use mainly or only English. It should be noted that between 8% and 12% of Francophones reported using French as much as English in all domains except in institutions and stores, where the proportion was only 3%.

The general index on use of languages in the public sphere reveals that 92% of the population for whom French is the first official language spoken use mainly or only English in the various domains of the public sphere (media, institutions and stores, work, immediate network and with friends outside the home).[18] In fact, 54% of Francophones use only English in the public sphere, while 38% use mainly English (with French as a secondary language).

18. See Appendix C for a description of the general index of use of languages in the public sphere.

Chart 3.5
Proportion of Francophones by language use in various domains of the public and private spheres, Alberta, 2006



1. Refers to the sum of the "French only" and "Much more French than English" categories in the survey questionnaire.
2. Refers to the sum of the "English only" and "Much more English than French" categories in the survey questionnaire.
Note:
The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken. Please refer to Appendix B to obtain quality indicators (coefficient of variation (CV)) for the estimates used to produce this chart. A note on the construction of the indices for use of language in daily activities is found in Appendix C.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

3.6 Knowledge of French

Persons whose main language is French have more opportunities to use it when they are in contact with persons who are able to conduct a conversation in French even if it is not their first official language spoken.

Within the overall population of Alberta in 2006, the proportion of persons who reported being able to conduct a conversation in French (7%) was larger than the proportion who reported French alone or with another language as their mother tongue (2.1%) or the proportion for whom French was the first official language spoken (1.9%). The relative share of Albertans able to conduct a conversation in French varies from one language group to another. Approximately 9 French-mother-tongue persons in 10 reported knowing French. The proportion is 5% for persons with English as their mother tongue and 4% for those with another mother tongue (see Table 3.9). Among the latter, 7% (most of them recent immigrants) reported that they were unable to conduct a conversation in either English or French.

Table 3.9
Knowledge of official languages by mother tongue, Alberta, 2001 and 2006

Mother tongue	Knowledge of official languages									
	2001					2006				
	French	English	English and French	Neither English nor French	Total	French	English	English and French	Neither English nor French	Total
	percentage									
French	2.4	9.1	88.5	0.0	100.0	2.6	9.5	87.9	0.0	100.0
English	0.0	94.6	5.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	94.5	5.4	0.0	100.0
Other languages	0.1	89.4	4.1	6.3	100.0	0.1	89.1	4.2	6.6	100.0
Total	0.1	92.0	6.9	1.1	100.0	0.1	91.8	6.8	1.2	100.0

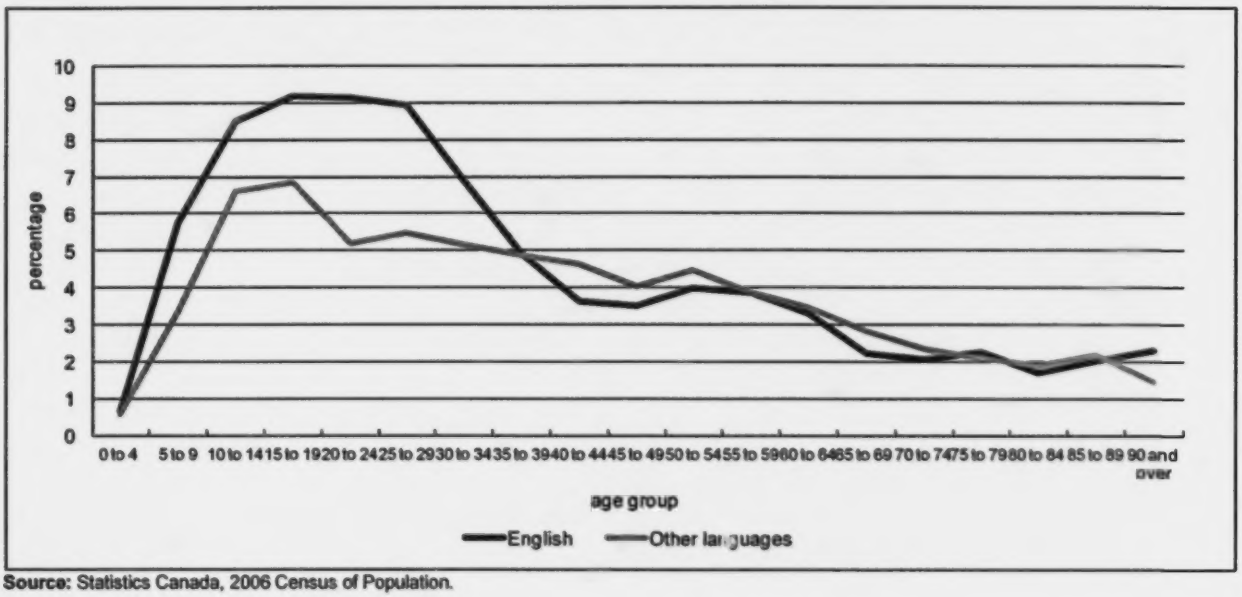
Note: Multiple responses regarding mother tongue were equally redistributed among the groups.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001 and 2006.

The proportion of persons able to conduct a conversation in French in a given place may affect how frequently French is used. Hence, one factor that can increase Francophones' opportunities to use their mother tongue is the use of French in various settings, especially at work and in the home, by persons for whom English is the first official language spoken. In Alberta, 10% of English FOLS persons[19] who knew French spoke that language at least on a regular basis at home and 11% used it at work at least regularly in 2006.

The statistics in Chart 3.6 show that within the population aged 5 to 34, French-English bilingualism among non-Francophones is more widespread among English-mother-tongue persons than among those with another mother tongue. For persons aged 35 and over, Anglophones' French-English bilingualism rates are mostly lower than or equal to those of allophones. Knowledge of French is more widespread among young person's because they attend French immersion or French as a second language programs. Because French is usually learned at school, the bilingualism rate peaks in the 15-to-19 age group, which covers the period when young people are completing their secondary education. The gap observed between the two groups in the ages from 20 to 34 is mainly due to the strong growth of the immigrant population in this age range, a population not exposed to French immersion programs.

19. Without allocation of multiple responses.

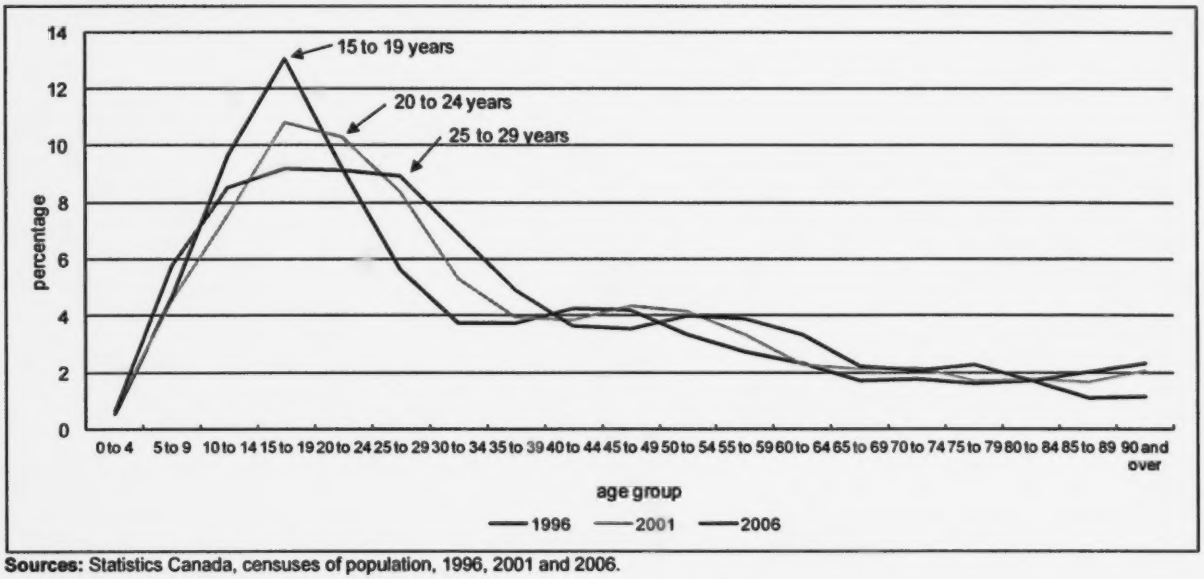
Chart 3.6
Proportion of persons with a mother tongue other than French who can conduct a conversation in English and in French, by age group, Alberta, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

The ability of young Anglophones to maintain their knowledge of French as a second language diminishes over time. As may be seen in Chart 3.7, when we consider the bilingualism rate of youths aged 15 to 19 reported in the 1996 census (13,1%), we observe that it falls to 10.3% in 2001, when this cohort is aged 20 to 24, and to 8.9% in 2006 when the same cohort is aged 25 to 29. A similar trend is observed among youths who were 15- to 19-year-olds in 2001 and 20- to 24-year-olds five years later.

Chart 3.7
Proportion of persons with English as their mother tongue who can conduct a conversation in English and in French by age group, Alberta, 1996, 2001 and 2006



Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

3.7 Migration (interprovincial and international migratory movements)

The mobility of Francophones within Canada and the contribution of international immigration are factors that influence the evolution of the French-speaking population of Alberta.

3.7.1 Place of birth

Table 3.10 shows the place of birth of Alberta Francophones. As may be seen, in 2006, approximately one-third of French-mother-tongue persons (35%) and French FOLS persons (32%) had been born in Alberta. Depending on the criterion used, the proportion of Alberta Francophones born in another province or a territory of Canada differs slightly; it was 54% for French FOLS persons compared with 57% for persons with French as their mother tongue. Slightly more than one-quarter of both French-mother-tongue persons and French FOLS persons had been born in Quebec. Indeed, just over one-third of Franco-Albertans were natives of Quebec or Ontario. As for foreign-born persons, most of whom were immigrants,[20] they comprised nearly 8% of the French-mother-tongue population and 14% of the population with French as its first official language spoken.

20. Foreign-born persons include immigrants, non-permanent residents and Canadians born abroad.

Table 3.10
Place of birth of Francophones by mother tongue and first official language spoken, Alberta, 2006

Place of birth	French mother tongue		French first official language spoken	
	number	%	number	%
Born in Alberta	22,665	35.0	20,005	31.9
Born in an other canadian province or territory	37,190	57.4	34,035	54.3
Born in Quebec	17,325	26.8	16,775	26.8
Born in Ontario	6,630	10.2	5,925	9.4
Born outside Canada	4,885	7.6	8,655	13.8
Total	**64,745**	**100.0**	**62,700**	**100.0**

Note:
The multiple responses were equally redistributed. Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

3.7.2 International immigration

Alberta receives a number of international immigrants whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is French. In the 2006 census count, there were 7,865 French-speaking individuals born outside Canada residing in the province (see Table 3.11). Within Alberta's immigrant population as a whole, a small proportion had French as their first official language spoken. In 2006, that relative share was 1.5%. Nevertheless, the relative weight of the French-speaking immigrant population within Alberta's Francophone population was 13% in the last census, while the relative weight of the English-speaking immigrant population within the Anglophone population was 16%.

Francophone immigration in Alberta is not a recent phenomenon. However, because of the strong growth of international immigration that Canada has experienced since the mid-1980s, the French-speaking immigrant population of the province grew 41% from 1981 to 2006. Many of these immigrants have a mother tongue other than English or French and have either French or both of Canada's official languages as their first official language spoken.

Table 3.11
Number and proportion of French-speaking and English-speaking immigrants, Alberta, 1971 to 2006

Immigrants	1971	1981	1991	2001	2006
	number				
Number of French-speaking immigrants	4,575	5,585	4,580	5,990	7,865
	proportion (in %)				
French-speaking immigrants within the immigrant population	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.5
French-speaking immigrants in Alberta within all French- speaking immigrants outside Quebec	8.5	10.0	7.7	6.8	8.0
French-speaking immigrants within the Francophone population	9.5	9.9	8.6	10.2	12.5
English-speaking immigrants within the Anglophone population	17.1	15.9	14.6	14.3	15.5
Immigrants in Alberta within the immigrant population of Canada	8.6	9.4	8.8	8.0	8.5

Note: Populations are defined according to the first official language spoken criterion.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

While French-speaking immigrants in Alberta have various origins, a large proportion of them actually come from a limited number of countries. Table 3.12 shows the main countries of origin of immigrants residing in Alberta. The twelve countries shown in this table are the source countries of approximately 55% of the province's French-speaking immigrants. As the table shows, three Francophone immigrants in 10 come from five European countries: France, Romania, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. After France (18.2%), the source countries of the largest proportions of French-speaking immigrants are the Democratic Republic of Congo (8.2%) and Lebanon (3.6%).

Table 3.12
Main countries of origin of French-speaking immigrants, Alberta, 2006

Country	French-speaking immigrants	
	number	%
France	1,580	18.2
Congo, Democratic republic of	710	8.2
Lebanon	310	3.6
Romania	310	3.6
United States of America	295	3.4
Germany	285	3.3
Switzerland	250	2.8
Vietnam	245	2.8
Morocco	240	2.8
Algeria	235	2.7
Belgium	200	2.3
Colombia	200	2.3

Note: Populations are defined according to the first official language spoken criterion.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

3.7.3 Interprovincial migration

From 1981 to 1991, Alberta registered negative net interprovincial migration, with a net loss of at least 25,000 persons for each five-year period (see Table 3.13). However, starting in 1991, the province posted positive net migration, with gains ranging from 3,600 for the period 1991–1996 to 88,200 for the 2001- 2006 period. Notably during the period 1996–2001, Alberta recorded an unequalled gain of 119,400, including 113,900 Anglophones and 5,300 Francophones.

Net interprovincial migration for Francophones and Anglophones followed the same trends as seen in the Alberta population as a whole: negative figures from 1981 to 1991 and positive ones for each of the subsequent five-year periods. From 1981 to 1991, the province registered a net loss ranging between 900 and 4,400 Francophones and between 23, 300 and 24,000 Anglophones depending on the period. Starting in 1991, the positive net migration of Francophones and Anglophones varied between 400 and 5,300 and between 3,600 and 113,900 respectively, depending on the period.

From 1981 to 2006, departures of Francophones for other provinces and territories ranged between 4,900 and 12,500 during a given period. As for the migration of Francophones to Alberta, arrivals ranged between 8,100 and 10,200 depending on the period from 1981 to 2006. From 2001 to 2006, 9, 900 Francophones came to Alberta, while 6,600 Francophones left the province, resulting in positive net interprovincial migration of 3,300.

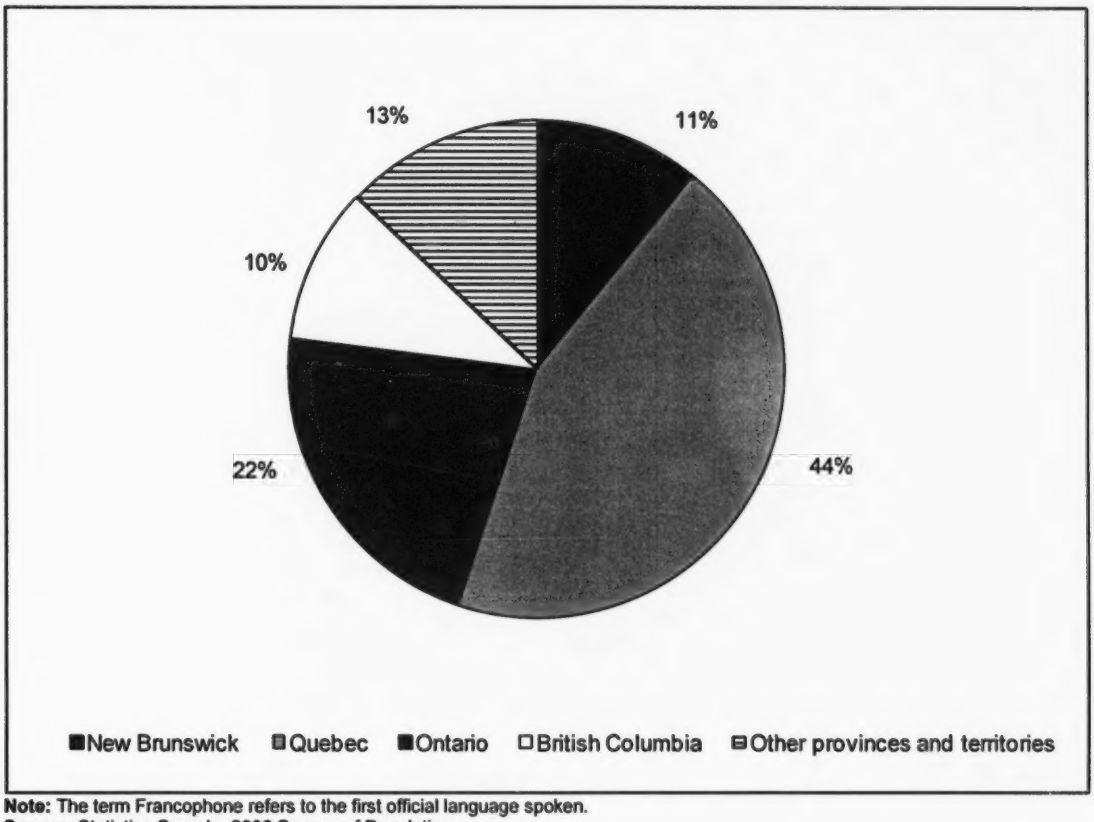
Table 3.13
Interprovincial migration between Alberta and other provinces and territories by first official language spoken, 1981 to 2006

Period	First official language spoken		
	Total	French	English
	number		
From Alberta to other provinces and territories			
1981 to 1986	**204,950**	12,520	191,940
1986 to 1991	**195,025**	7,940	186,305
1991 to 1996	**159,060**	6,010	152,135
1996 to 2001	**122,810**	4,905	117,275
2001 to 2006	**138,690**	6,630	131,460
From other provinces and territories to Alberta			
1981 to 1986	**177,285**	8,095	168,660
1986 to 1991	**170,015**	7,070	162,325
1991 to 1996	**162,640**	6,390	155,745
1996 to 2001	**242,230**	10,175	231,210
2001 to 2006	**226,865**	9,895	216,045
Net migration (arrivals minus departures)			
1981 to 1986	**-27,660**	-4,420	-23,280
1986 to 1991	**-25,000**	-860	-23,970
1991 to 1996	**3,580**	380	3,610
1996 to 2001	**119,420**	5,270	113,940
2001 to 2006	**88,175**	3,260	84,585

Note: Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1981 to 2006.

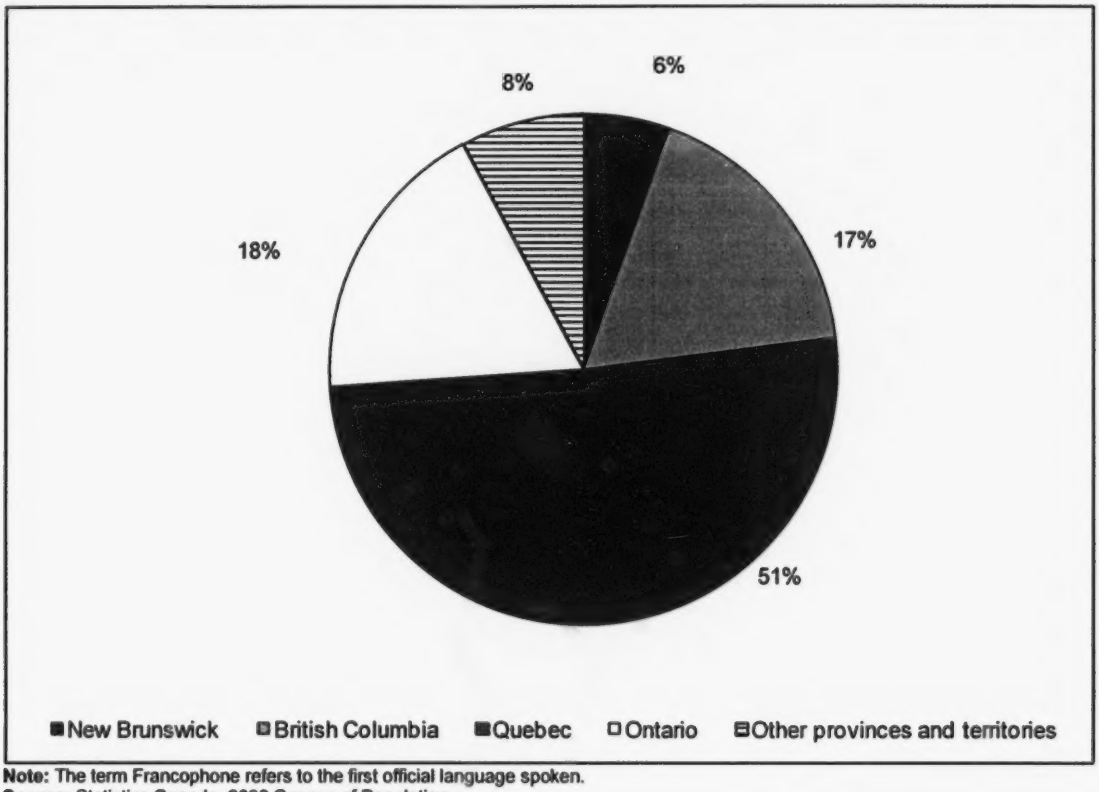
Charts 3.8 and 3.9 show migratory movements between Alberta and the other provinces and territories, from 2001 to 2006. As may be seen, of the roughly 9,900 Francophones who came from other provinces and territories to settle in Alberta, nearly half (44%) were living in Quebec in 2001. Of these 4,400 Francophones who came from Quebec, 74% were between 20 and 49 years of age. The rest of the Francophones came mainly from Ontario (22%), New Brunswick (11%) and British Columbia (10%). Of the approximately 6,600 Francophones who were living in Alberta in 2001 and subsequently migrated to other provinces, approximately half settled in Quebec, while the rest settled mainly in Ontario (18%) and British Columbia (17%). Additionally, census data show that 57% of the Francophones who left Alberta from 2001 to 2006 returned to their province of birth. More than 70% of Quebec-born Francophones who left Alberta from 2001 to 2006 to resettle in their province of birth were between 20 and 49 years of age.

Chart 3.8
Province or territory of origin of Francophones who settled in Alberta from 2001 to 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Chart 3.9
Destination of Francophones who left Alberta for another province or territory from 2001 to 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Section 4 A few sectors essential to the vitality of minority official-language communities

The *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008–2013* calls for investing in five key sectors: health, justice, arts and culture, economic development and immigration. The last of these was briefly discussed in the previous section and was dealt with in an analytical report released by Statistics Canada (Houle and Corbeil, 2010). This section will present statistics on the other four key sectors identified in the Roadmap. Also, the Roadmap includes financial support for education in the minority language, a sector identified as being of great importance for the future of official-language minorities in Canada (Lord, 2008); therefore, we will devote a section to it.

Drawing on data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) and the census, we will provide general information on the presence of French and the situation of Francophones in each of these sectors.

4.1 Health

A common language between patients and health care professionals is one of the key elements of access to health care services and the effectiveness of the services provided. Language barriers can mean that some members of minority Francophone communities are less well served by health care services. With this in mind, it is important to examine the situation of Alberta's Francophone communities regarding various aspects of access to health care services.

In the 2006 Census, 15% of the medical doctors working in Alberta—that is, 635 out of a total of 4,265—reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in French, while 2.5% reported using French at least on a regular basis[21] in their work.[22] For nurses, who numbered 32,215, the proportions were 7% and 1% respectively.

The proportion of doctors and nurses who are able to conduct a conversation in French is much higher than Francophones' relative share of the Alberta population. Nevertheless, the results of the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) show that almost all (97%) of Alberta Francophones report using English in their contacts with different health care professionals about whom information was collected in that survey: family doctors, nurses, telephone health line or telehealth service professionals and professionals in other places that people go to obtain care.

The Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities also reveals that 26% of Franco-Albertans report that it is important or very important to them to obtain health services in French. Nevertheless, English is used almost exclusively with the family doctor (95%), with professionals and specialists in other places where health care services are provided (94%), with the telephone health line professionals (95%), and with nurses (91%). Lack of knowledge of French by health care professionals, as perceived by the respondents, is the main reason cited by Francophones to explain why they are not served in that language during their visits/consultations. This reason thus greatly influences the main language used during consultations.

Overall, results of the SVOLM and the census show that three important factors affect the extent to which one language or the other is used with health professionals: the weak concentration of Francophones in a municipality of residence, the availability of professionals with knowledge of French and the main language of those requesting services.

21. In other words, most often or on a regular basis.
22. On this subject, see Table 2.1 of *Health Care Professionals and Official-Language Minorities in Canada: 2001 and 2006* (Blaser, 2009, p. 23).

The presence of French-speaking professionals as well as professionals able to conduct a conversation in the minority language is likely to increase access to health care services in that language. It may also be conducive to a stronger presence and more widespread use of the language in this key sector of the public sphere. However, the gap observed between the proportion of these professionals able to conduct a conversation in French and the population of Francophones using French to obtain health services suggests that the active offer of services in the minority language is possibly an issue that should be examined more closely.

It is also important to examine whether Francophones who report having French as their main language were more likely to use French in their interactions with health care professionals than those with English as their main language. It seems clear that the lack of use of the minority official language by Francophones for whom French is the main language—that is, the language in which they feel most at ease—does not depend on the same factors as in the case of Francophones who have made a language shift resulting in their now being more at ease speaking English. The results of the SVOLM reflect the fact that whatever their main language, the vast majority of Francophones (97%) use English in their contacts with different health professionals. However, it is hardly surprising that in their interactions with their family doctor, Francophones who have English as their main language are proportionally more likely to use English (99%) than those with French as their main language (89%).

Information drawn from the SVOLM clearly shows that for Francophones, obtaining health care services in the language of their choice does not necessarily mean obtaining services in French. Since 54% of Alberta Francophones have English as their main language, it would not be surprising if French were not their "language of choice" for obtaining health care services.

4.2 Justice

An examination of results from the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) in the field of justice sheds light on the extent to which the French language is present in the institutions that ensure its use in the public sphere by Alberta Francophones. By measuring access to justice practitioners who are able to converse in French, it is possible to document a phenomenon that is perceived by Francophones outside Quebec as being very important for the status of that language and the future of French-speaking minority communities. In this regard, the Canadian government undertook in the Roadmap to ensure that Canadians will have better access to justice services in the minority official language. In the case of Alberta, the *Languages Act* enacted in 1988 makes English the sole official language of the province in the parliamentary, legislative and judicial domains (Gagné: 1999). Nonetheless, Article 4 of this Act authorizes Francophones to use French in the Legislative Assembly and before some provincial courts (the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench, the Provincial Court and probate court). The Court of Queen's Bench authorizes the accused to file documents written in French, in the name of official bilingualism and freedom of expression; the Court of Appeal also authorizes documents written in French to be filed, provided that an English translation is included (Department of Justice Canada, 2011). Francophones have accordingly, since 1990, had access to the services of the Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta (AJEFA). Also, with respect to criminal law, as stipulated by the Criminal Code of Canada, Franco-Albertans, like all residents of Canada, are entitled to a trial and a preliminary inquiry in French.

In Alberta, the SVOLM results reveal that access to these services in French does not appear to be highly valued by a majority of Francophones, since 55% feel that if they needed the services of a lawyer, it would be not very important or not important that the lawyer could speak French.

Interactions with the justice system and its representatives, including lawyers and the police, are not widespread in the population. Of Alberta's approximately 54,790 adult Francophones, 35% reported that they had used the services of a lawyer in the two years preceding the survey, while 17% had come into contact with the municipal police and 13% with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Because the language barrier can hinder access to justice, the Canadian government has made it a priority to train professionals who can provide service in the minority official language. According to the 2006 Census, Alberta had 1,350 lawyers able to conduct a conversation in French, which represents 17% of the lawyers in the province (see Table 4.1). As to police officers—who number 6,605—12% reported being able to conduct a conversation in French (see Table 4.2).

In addition to these statistics on the availability or potential pool of justice system professionals who are able to use French when interacting with Alberta Francophones, Tables 4.1 and 4.2 show their knowledge and use of French in their work. According to the 2006 Census, 3% of Alberta police officers reported using French at least regularly at work. This rate is much lower than that for police officers' ability to conduct a conversation in French, which is 12% (see Table 4.2). The same is true for lawyers: their rate of use of French at least regularly in their work (1%) is also much lower than the proportion who are able to conduct a conversation in French (17%)[23] (see Table 4.1)

Table 4.1
Knowledge and use of minority language by lawyers, Alberta, 2006

Knowledge and use of French language	Lawyers	
	number	percentage
First official language spoken	75	1
Language used regularly at work	100	1
Knowledge of French	1,350	17
Total population	7,730	100

Note:
The use of French by lawyers in Alberta is done essentially as a secondary language. The use of French as a main language is almost nonexistent.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

According to 2006 Census data, the number of police officers who use French in their work in Alberta is lower than the number of Francophone police officers. Thus, whereas nearly 180 of the provinces' police officers reported using French at least regularly in their work, 255 had this language as their first official language spoken (FOLS) (see Table 4.2).

23. As in the case of health care professionals, the use of French by lawyers and police officers depends on a number of factors, including the proportion of Francophones in a given community. However, an analysis of these factors is beyond the scope of this statistical portrait.

Table 4.2
Knowledge and use of minority language by police officers (excludes senior management), Alberta, 2006

Knowledge and use of French language	Police officers	
	number	percentage
First official language spoken	255	4
Language used regularly at work	175	3
Knowledge of French	790	12
Total population	6,605	100

Note:
The use of French by police officers in Alberta is done essentially as a secondary language. The use of French as a main language is almost nonexistent.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

The results of the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) indicate that interactions of Alberta Francophones with municipal police[24] are generally in English. Approximately four Francophones in five used only English in their interactions with municipal police. When using the services of a lawyer, 86% of Francophones used only English.

4.3 Education

4.3.1 Children

In Alberta, following the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (1963), the *School Act* was amended in 1968 and instruction in French was authorized in the province's schools, for up to 50% of the school day, from grades 3 to 9, and then in 1971, up to grade 12. Teaching compulsory subjects in French had previously been banned since 1892. In 1976, Alberta adopted regulation 250/76, which allowed the use of French for up to 80 per cent of the school day for all residents of the province. In 1982, Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guaranteed certain education rights to official-language minorities across Canada, including the right to have their children educated in their mother tongue. That same year, the Association de parents de langue française Georges-et-Julia-Bugnet—headed by Jean-Claude Mahé, Angéline Martel and Paul Dubé—approached the Alberta Department of Education and the two Edmonton school boards requesting the creation of a French-language elementary school to be administered by Francophone parents. When their request was denied, the Association brought the matter—known as the Mahé case—before the courts, citing Section 23. Two years later, two Francophone public elementary schools opened their doors, under the management of the Edmonton Catholic School Board and the Calgary Catholic School Board.

In 1985, the Court of Queen's Bench ruled that Francophones are entitled to a degree of exclusive management of their education. The Mahé case was then referred to the Court of Appeal, which rendered its decision in 1987. While the decision of the Court of Appeal granted Francophones the right to exclusive management of their schools, it also held that the number of francophone students was too small to allow the creation of a Francophone school system in Edmonton. The case was then brought before the Supreme Court of Canada, which in 1990 recognized the right of Francophones to manage their schools. In the meantime, in 1988, a new *School Act* had been enacted in the province, stating that the official-language minority was entitled to instruction in French. Accordingly, Alberta's *School Act* was amended in 1993, henceforth granting Franco-Albertans the right to manage their schools. For this purpose, three Francophone school boards were created.

24. Because of the very small number of members of the official-language minority who had contact with the provincial police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), no conclusions regarding them can be drawn from the data obtained in the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities.

Today, there are 34 Francophone schools in Alberta, managed by the province's five regional Francophone school boards. These schools provide instruction in French as a "first language" from kindergarten to grade 12. At the postsecondary level, it has been possible, since the fall of 2010, to pursue an education in French at the college level in Edmonton. Additionally, the Saint-Jean campus of the University of Alberta offers various programs at the bachelor's and master's levels in French (FCFA, 2009).

In a minority situation, French schools are assigned special status because of their role as an agent of socialization to French culture, transmission of the French language to children and maintenance of skills in that language. School is a public Francophone environment which, along with the family, can help Francophone community life to develop and flourish.

Table 4.3 shows enrolments in French immersion programs and regular French-language programs. As may be seen, enrolments in immersion programs are greater than in regular programs. It is important to note that immersion programs are attended by both Francophone and non-Francophone students. In general, enrolments have increased both in French immersion programs and in regular programs. However, the increase in enrolments in regular programs has accelerated since 2004/2005. Statistics for 2001/2002 stand out from those for other years in that enrolments in regular programs registered a decrease (-12%) rather than an increase.

Table 4.3
Number of children registered in French immersion and in regular French programmes at the primary and secondary levels in public schools, Alberta, 2000/2001 to 2006/2007

Year	French immersion programme		Regular French language programme	
	number	variation in %	number	variation in %
2000/2001	26,491	1.5	3,745	1.1
2001/2002	27,475	3.7	3,280	-12.4
2002/2003	27,653	0.6	3,474	5.9
2003/2004	28,197	2.0	3,619	4.2
2004/2005	29,414	4.3	3,871	7.0
2005/2006	30,452	3.5	4,138	6.9
2006/2007	31,317	2.8	4,737	14.5

Source: Brockington (2009).

It is important to examine here the extent to which French-language schools are attended by children eligible to attend them, along with the factors that influence decisions concerning children's language of instruction. Data from the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) shed useful light on this aspect of the school situation of children of Francophone parents in Alberta: they can be used to estimate the number of children eligible for education in French who attend a French-language school or are enrolled in an immersion program. Additionally, these data can be used to examine the link between attending a French-language school and the use of languages, particularly at home and with friends.

In Alberta, 17,140 children of Francophone parents were enrolled in elementary or secondary school at the time of the survey. Of those children, 43% were receiving an education in French, including 25% in a French school and 18% in a French immersion program within an English school. Of the rest of such children enrolled in elementary or secondary school, 54% were attending an English-language school (regular program). The results obtained suggest that the language in which children are educated may be related to the proportion of exogamous couples, the existence of language transfer toward English for many Francophones under 21 years of age and the fact that a sizeable proportion of Francophones feel more at ease in English than French. As an example, of the 15,070 children with at least one Francophone parent, the majority (66%) were from French-English exogamous families. Of the children living in this type of family, 64% were attending the regular program of an English-language school.

The SVOLM also shows that a more popular choice for parents of the youngest children seems to be having them attend a French-language school or a French immersion program in an English school. The results suggest that some children may abandon French school and French immersion programs in favour of English school during the transition between elementary school and secondary school. The SVOLM results show that approximately one in two children was enrolled in a French-language school or a French immersion program at the elementary level. This is higher than the proportion of children enrolled in these types of schools at the secondary level. As for the proportion of children enrolled in the regular program in English, it is 45% at the elementary level and 69% at the secondary level.

Apart from the environmental characteristics mentioned above, other factors influence the choice of the language of their child's school. In particular, the language that was used by the parents in their own educational pathway appears to have some influence on their choice of their children's language of instruction or school system. Thus, of the 9,120 children with at least one parent who had been educated at the elementary and secondary levels in French, approximately 51% were attending a French-language school or a French immersion program and 50% spoke French at home, including 26% most often and 24% on a regular basis.

Data from the SVOLM do not yield statistically significant results in terms of the link between children's attendance at a French school and the sole or predominant use of French at home or with friends; nor of the link between school attendance in French and the ability to conduct a conversation in French. However, a link can be established between attendance at a French school and use of French in various contexts. Thus, the majority of children who attend a French-language school use French, alone or with English, when speaking with their friends (62%) and are able to use it to conduct a conversation in almost all cases (85%). On the other hand, more than one child in two who attends a French school uses only English at home.

4.3.2 Adults

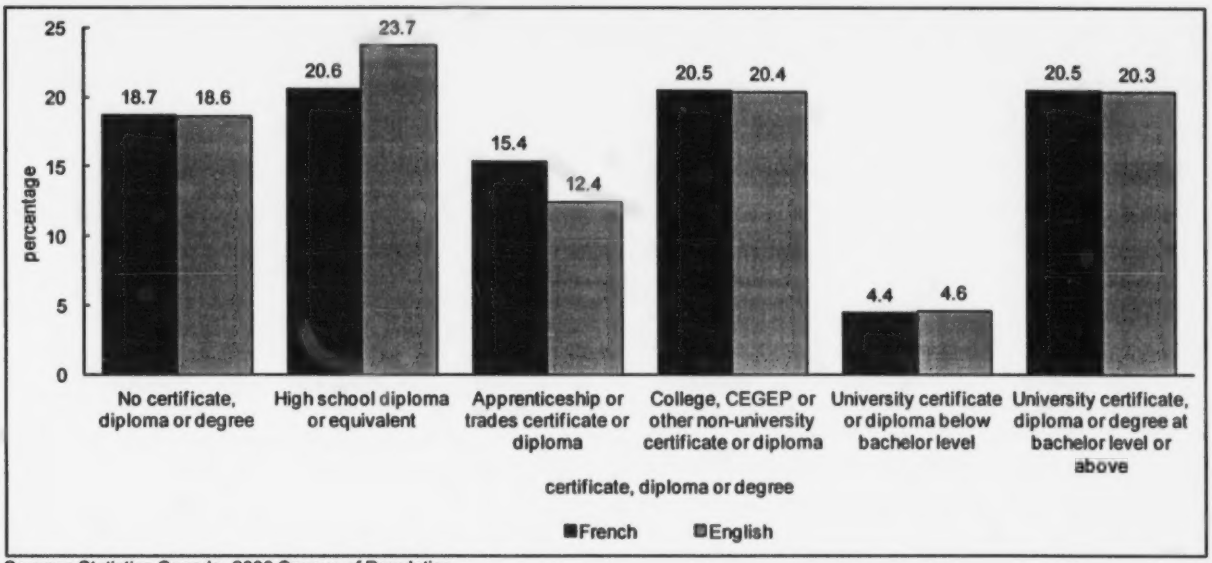
4.3.2.1 Highest level of schooling

The highest level of schooling of Alberta Francophones in 2006 is an important indicator of the progress made since the 1971 Census, which was conducted shortly after the Dunton–Laurendeau Royal Commission completed its work. Based on statistics from the 1961 Census, the Commission's work described the very large disparities observed between Francophones and Anglophones in Canada, with respect to education as well as to labour market status and various spheres of economic activity. Notably because of compulsory education up to age 16[25] and the growing importance assigned to education by governments, employers and the general public, the disparities between Francophones and Anglophones in Canada have greatly diminished over time.

To illustrate this phenomenon, we will first examine the results shown in Chart 4.1 concerning the situation in 2006. As may be seen, Francophones (20.5%) and Anglophones (20.3%) are almost equally as likely to have a university degree at or above the bachelor level. Francophones (18.7%) are also proportionately as likely as Francophones (18.6%) to have no certificate, diploma or degree. However, a slightly higher proportion of Anglophones (23.7%) than Francophones (20.6%) had a high school diploma or the equivalent.

25. In the case of Alberta, compulsory education was raised to age 17 in 2001.

Chart 4.1
Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by first official language spoken, persons aged 25 years or over, Alberta 2006

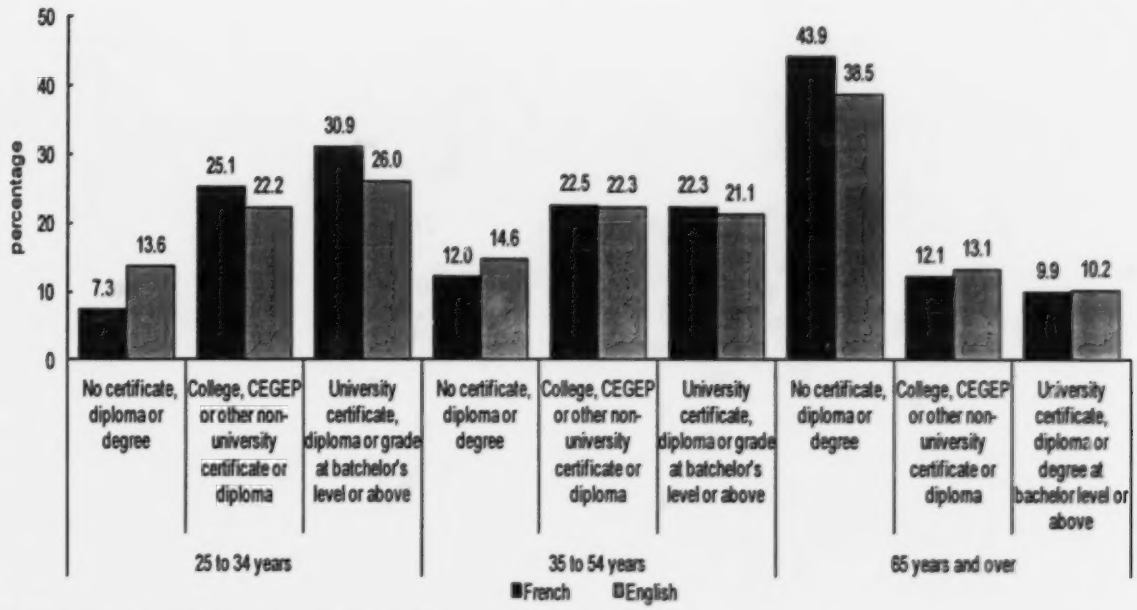


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

The findings that emerge from a reading of the above chart cover the overall population aged 25 and over and therefore reflect both the present and the past educational situation of the language groups.

Chart 4.2 clearly illustrates this point when we look at selected sub-populations defined according to their age group. It shows that among persons aged 65 and over, a larger proportion of Francophones (44%) than Anglophones (39%) have no certificate, diploma or degree. Conversely, among persons aged 25 to 34, this proportion is higher for Anglophones (14%) than for Francophones (7%). As may also be seen, Anglophones aged 65 and over are proportionally more likely than Francophones to have a college or university diploma. On the other hand, among persons aged 25 to 34, Francophones are more likely than Anglophones to have a college diploma (25% versus 22%) or a university degree (31% versus 26%). This is partly due to the progress made in the education of Alberta-born Francophones, as well as to the high education level of Francophone immigrants, who are proportionally more likely than Anglophone immigrants to have a university certificate or degree.

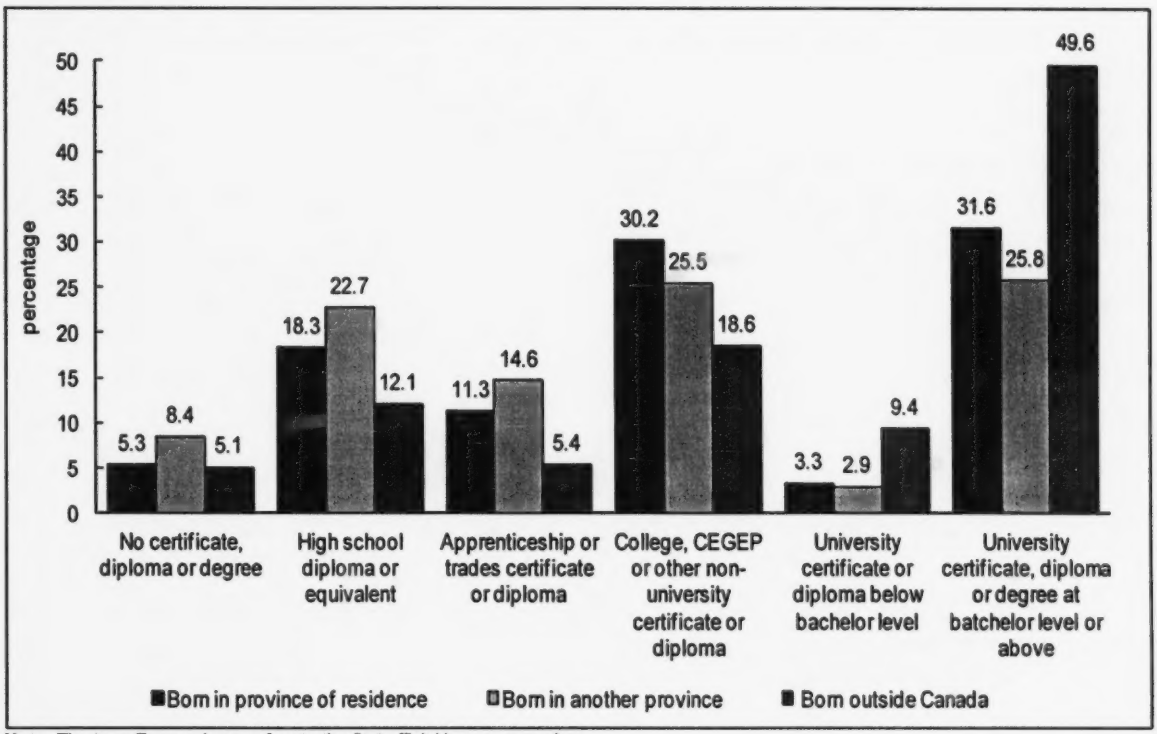
Chart 4.2
Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained, by first official language spoken and age group, Alberta, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

As just noted, an examination of the educational status of young adults must take into account an important factor: the place of birth. For example, among both Anglophones and Francophones, immigrants are generally more likely to have a university degree, particularly because selection criteria for immigrants to Canada include their level of education. In 2006, among Francophones aged 25 to 34, 50% of those born outside Canada had a university degree, compared with 32% of those born in Alberta and 26% born in another province or territory (see chart 4.3). At the lowest education levels, we observe the corollary to this situation: Francophones born outside Canada are less likely than other Franco-Albertans to have a high school diploma as their highest level of schooling or to have no certificate, diploma or degree.

Chart 4.3
Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by Francophones aged 25 to 34 years, by place of birth, Alberta, 2006



Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

One of the greatest changes resulting from the profound social transformations and educational reforms of the 1960s is the entry of large numbers of women into postsecondary educational institutions, especially universities. In 1971, the proportion of women holding a university degree was two to three times smaller than the proportion of men, depending on the age group (Corbeil, 2003). In 2006, among Francophones in Alberta, the data show that for persons aged 65 and over—that is, those who were at least 30 years of age in 1971, the proportion of women holding a university diploma is 9%, compared with 12% for men in this age group (see Table 4.4). In contrast, among 20- to 24-year-olds, the situation is reversed: the proportion holding such a diploma is 7% for men and 15% for women. Also, in this age group, 16% of men have no certificate, diploma or degree compared with 12% of women. In short, women under 65 years of age are proportionally more likely to have a university diploma or degree than their male counterparts, whereas the latter are proportionally more likely to have no certificate, diploma or degree or to have a vocational or trade school diploma.

Table 4.4
Highest certificate, diploma or degree obtained by Francophones, by age group and sex, Alberta, 2006

Certificate, diploma or degree	20 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64		65 and over	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
	percentage											
No certificate, diploma or degree	**11.6**	**15.9**	**5.3**	**9.1**	**7.1**	**11.4**	**10.0**	**17.9**	**22.1**	**22.3**	**44.5**	**43.1**
High school degree or equivalent	45.9	45.1	18.3	21.7	21.7	20.3	28.5	18.4	26.0	14.7	20.0	14.3
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	4.7	13.1	6.0	18.1	9.8	18.2	9.3	25.8	10.2	26.8	6.9	19.2
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	18.0	15.7	27.2	23.2	29.0	18.7	25.8	18.1	22.0	15.7	13.9	10.0
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	4.4	2.8	5.6	2.8	5.2	4.4	6.0	3.3	4.4	4.5	6.2	1.6
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	**15.4**	**7.4**	**37.5**	**25.1**	**27.2**	**27.0**	**20.5**	**16.5**	**15.4**	**16.1**	**8.5**	**11.8**

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

4.3.2.2 Adults' language of instruction

As indicated above, in Alberta overall, approximately half of the children with at least one French-speaking parent are enrolled in the regular program of a French-language elementary school or in a French immersion program. At the secondary level, the proportion is lower. What about the language of instruction of adults who responded to the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM)? According to survey responses concerning the language in which respondents pursued part or all of their education, the presence of French varies from one age group to the next and from one education level to the next.

The Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities results reveal that a sizable proportion (75%) of Alberta Francophones had all or part of their education in French at the elementary level. This proportion declines as young people pursue their educational pathway, then rises again in academic programs at the university level. Thus, while 55% of Francophones pursued all or part of their secondary education in French, the proportion is 33% for those who completed non-university postsecondary education and 62% for those who pursued a university education. However, it should be noted that among all Francophones who were living in Alberta in 2006 and who pursued all or part of their university education in French, 57% were born in Quebec or outside Canada. The results also show that the proportion of French-speaking persons who were schooled in French at the elementary level declines from one age group to the next. Thus, that proportion is 84% for persons aged 18 to 24, whereas it is 52% for those aged 65 and over.

4.4 Media, arts and culture

Support for the arts and culture is one of the key elements targeted by the Roadmap, which recognizes the essential role played by arts and culture in the development of minority official-language communities.

The Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) targets six media for measuring access to cultural products in the minority language: television; the Internet; radio; newspapers; books; and live performances and arts events. These days, the Internet and cable television facilitate access to these media in various languages and from many countries, thereby increasing the availability of French-language cultural products throughout Canada.

The Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities results reveal that Franco-Albertans, like their Anglophone counterparts, are big consumers of the media, led by television (99%) and radio (88%) (see Table 4.5).

Table 4.5
Proportion of Francophones by use of certain media (all languages included), Alberta, 2006

Use of medium	Francophones
	percentage
Watch television	99
Listen to the radio	88
Read books	82
Read newspapers	80
Use Internet	73

Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

A majority of Alberta Francophones are inclined to report that they read newspapers (93%), watch television (84%), listen to the radio (84%), access the Internet (83%) and read books (75%) mainly or only in English. Access to French-language media is therefore not the only factor that influences consumption in the minority language: the SVOLM results reveal that despite technological advances facilitating access to various French-language media, English predominates in media use.

Table 4.6
Proportion of Francophones by language used with certain media, Alberta, 2006

Media	Language used with certain media		
	Only or mainly in French [1]	English and French	Only or mainly in English [2]
	percentage		
Radio	3 E	11 E	84
Television	4 E	10 E	84
Newspapers	x	4 E	93
Books	5 E	17	75
Internet	3 E	10	83

1. Refers to the sum of the "French only" and "Much more French than English" categories in the survey questionnaire.
2. Refers to the sum of the "English only" and "Much more English than French" categories in the survey questionnaire.
Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

4.5 Community

Individuals' civic engagement and their participation in community activities are generally recognized as dimensions of civic life that contribute to creating and maintaining social support networks. Also, "*social capital (broadly defined as participation in social networks) is increasingly being understood as a key component of community development or a key aspect of the 'capacity' of a community to develop.*" Rothwell and Turcotte, 2006, p. 1)

Data from the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) lend themselves to measuring several dimensions of Francophones' participation in community life. Statistics on participation in volunteer activities, membership in community organizations and informal caregiving can be used to examine the extent to which Francophones are engaged in the life of their community.[26]

The SVOLM results show that at least one-quarter of Alberta's Francophones participate in one of the activities for which data were collected. Thus, 26% of adult Francophones reported having given unpaid assistance with everyday activities to someone not living in their household in the 12 months preceding the survey; 29% reported belonging to an organization, network or association; and 38% reported volunteering.

When Franco-Albertans participate in community activities, their language of interaction varies depending on the type of activity. However, English is the language that Francophones favour overall for these activities. English is used mainly or only by 82% of Francophones when they do volunteer work, 73% when they are involved in organizations, networks or associations and 63% when they provide social support for daily activities to persons not living in the household. Note that assistance with day-to-day activities is most often provided to family members (excluding children) (44%). Consequently, family and friends appear to be quite important in the networks of Alberta Francophones. For example, in case of illness, 41% report that they would turn to other members of their family for support, while 25% would turn to their children and 12% to their friends. The use of French in social support activities thus seems to be associated mainly with the private sphere.

According to the SVOLM, nearly two-thirds of Alberta Francophones report that it is very important or important to them that individuals or organizations work to develop the Francophone community.

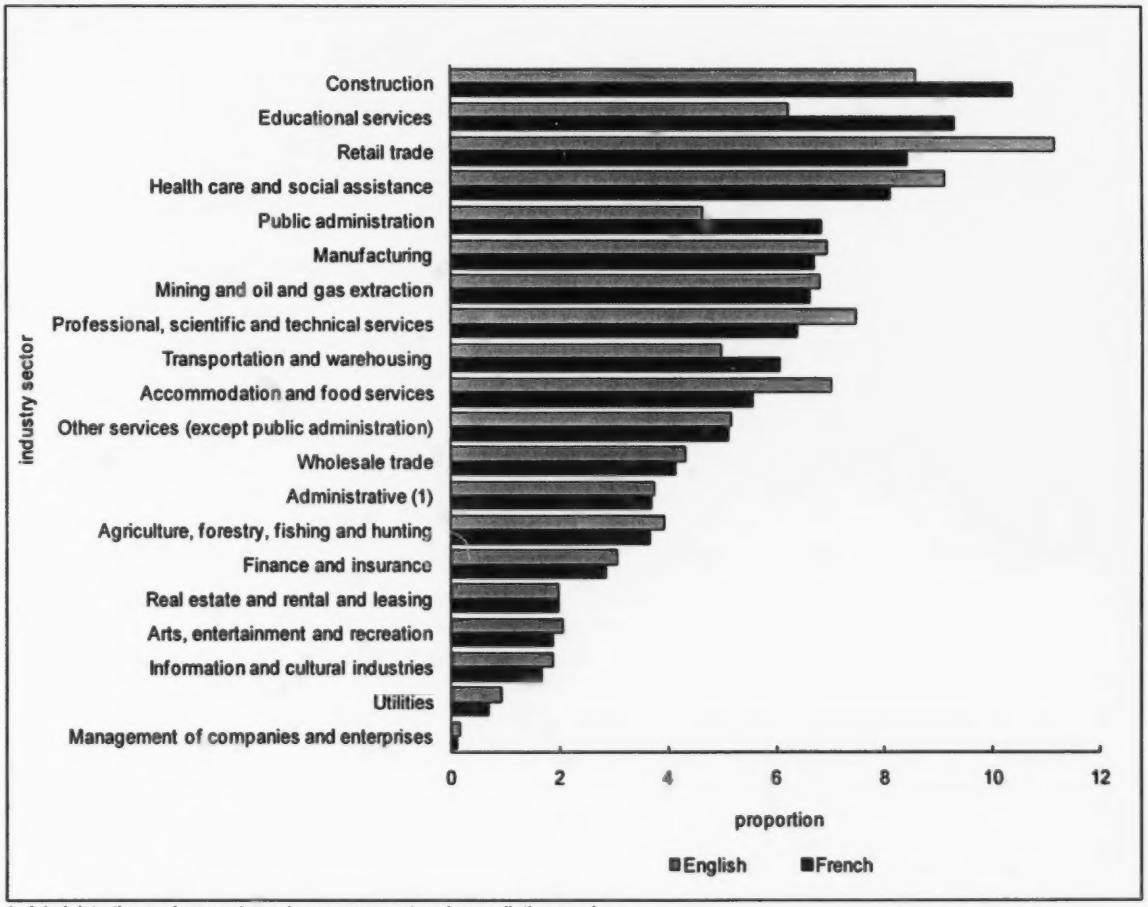
26. Community involvement is affected by various sociodemographic factors, including age, education level, area of residence and socioeconomic status. However, an analysis of these factors goes beyond the objective of this report.

4.6 Employment and income characteristics

Data from both the census and the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) can be used to examine the extent to which Alberta Francophones and Anglophones differ with regard to the industry sectors in which they work. It is possible to identify similarities and differences in how the language groups are distributed among the various industry sectors.

A brief analysis of 2006 Census data reveals that Alberta Francophones are proportionally more likely than their Anglophone counterparts to work in particular sectors such as construction (10.4% for Francophones compared with 8.6% for Anglophones), educational services (9.3% compared with 6.2%) and public administration (6.8% compared with 4.6%) (see Chart 4.4). Anglophones, for their part, are more likely to have jobs in retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services and accommodation and food services. In the other major industry sectors, there are few differences between the two groups.

Chart 4.4
Proportion of workers by industry sector and first official language spoken, Alberta, 2006



1. Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 4.7
Distribution of Francophone workers by industry sector, Alberta, 2006

Industry sector (NAICS)	Francophone worker	
	number	percentage
Public administration	3,130	6.9
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,660	3.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	865	1.9
Other services (except public administration)	2,310	5.1
Retail trade	3,810	8.4
Wholesale trade	1,860	4.1
Construction	4,720	10.3
Mining and oil and gas extraction	3,030	6.7
Manufacturing	3,040	6.7
Finance and insurance	1,305	2.9
Management of companies and enterprises	45	0.1
Accomodation and food services	2,620	5.7
Information and cultural industries	750	1.6
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1,650	3.6
Educational services	4,245	9.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	920	2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,875	6.3
Utilities	305	0.7
Health care and social assistance	3,665	8.0
Transportation and warehousing	2,815	6.2
Total	**45,625**	**100.0**

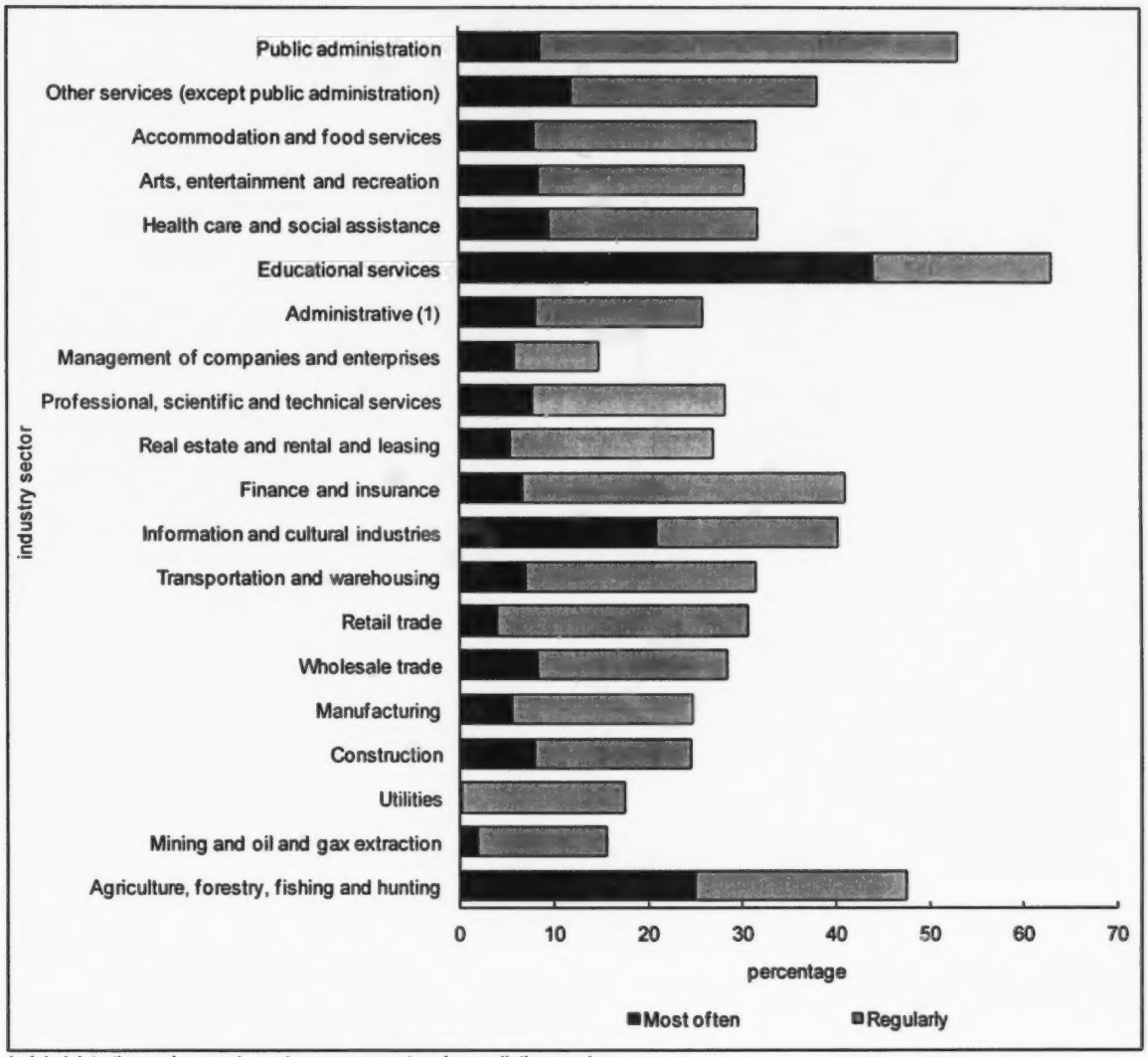
Note:
NAICS = North American Industry Classification System. The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken. Due to the random rounding of numbers, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the numbers presented in the table.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

4.6.1 Use of French at work by industry sector

Of all Alberta workers aged 15 and over, 1.5% use French most often or on a regular basis in their work. Among those with French as their first official language spoken, this proportion is 34.1%, with 11.4% using French most often and 22.7% using it regularly (that is, less often than the predominant language).

An examination of Table 4.7 reveals that Francophones working in construction, education, retail trade and health care and social assistance account for more than one-third (36%) of the province's Francophone workers. What about the use of French by the Francophones in these sectors? It is hardly surprising that Francophones in the education sector are proportionally more likely to have French as their main language of work; 44% use it most often while 19% report using it on a regular basis. Francophones in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector, who account for only 4% of the province's Francophone workers, are solidly in second place as regards the use of French most often at work (25%). However, Francophones in the public administration sector are proportionally more likely (45%) to report using French as a secondary language at work.

Chart 4.5
Use of French most often and regularly at work by Francophones, by industry sector, Alberta, 2006



1. Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.
Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

4.6.2 Income differentials

Historically, Francophones in Canada have been economically disadvantaged; Franco-Albertans were no exception. Since individuals' income level is highly dependent on their education level, their occupation and the industry sector in which they work (to name only these factors), it would appear that the substantial changes within Francophone communities over the past 40 years have had major effects on their income level.

It is beyond the purpose and scope of this report to analyse the factors influencing how income differentials between the language groups have evolved. However, statistics from the 2006 Census suggest that the status of Franco-Albertans has greatly improved over time.

The 2006 statistics reveal that the mean and median incomes of persons with French as their first official language spoken are slightly higher than those of Anglophones. Men with French as their only first official language spoken (FOLS) have a mean income that is $500 higher than that of men with English as their only FOLS. A larger gap is observed between these two language groups with respect to median income, since that of Francophone men is $3,200 more than that of Anglophone men. Among women, the mean and median incomes of Francophones are respectively $1,400 and $2,000 higher than those of Anglophones (see Table 4.8). As for the mean and median incomes of persons with French and English as first official languages spoken, they are much lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. For the population with a dual FOLS, the lower incomes would seem to be explained by the fact that these people are mainly immigrants. A number of studies have shown that despite a higher education level, immigrants have a higher unemployment rate and lower incomes than their Canadian-born counterparts (Frenette and Morissette, 2003; Picot and Hou, 2003; Zietsma, 2010).

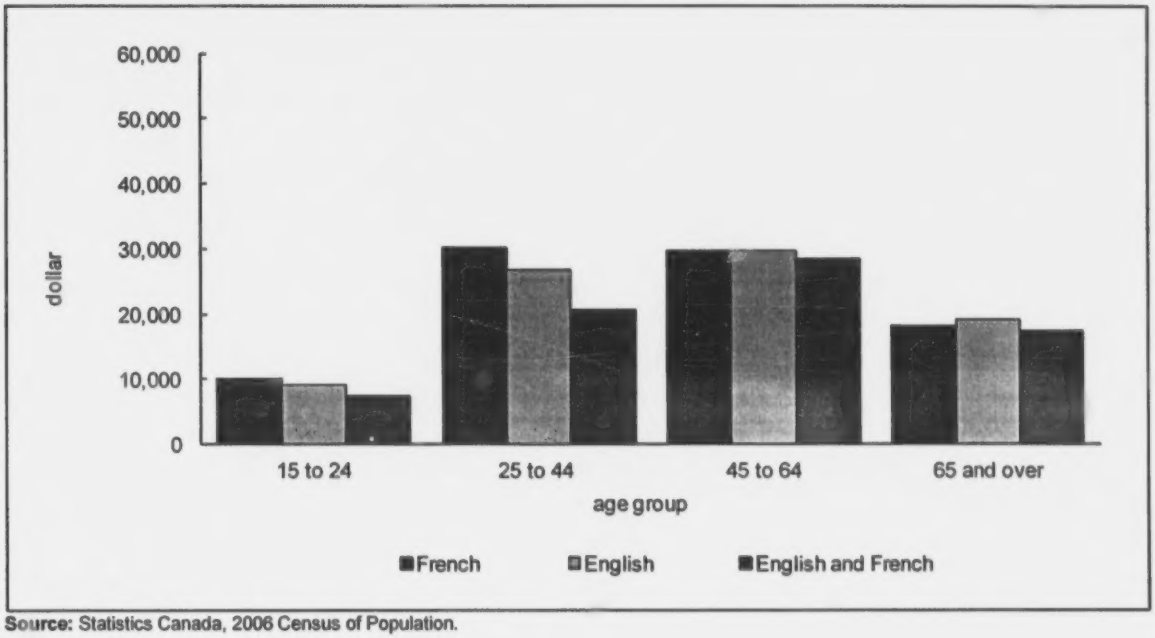
Table 4.8
Average and median income for males and females by first official language spoken, Alberta, 2006

First official language spoken	Males		Females	
	Average income	Median income	Average income	Median income
	dollar			
French	55,640	41,639	31,082	23,959
English	55,129	38,455	29,722	21,989
English and French	37,984	26,308	27,474	17,316
Total	**54,830**	**38,220**	**29,541**	**21,753**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

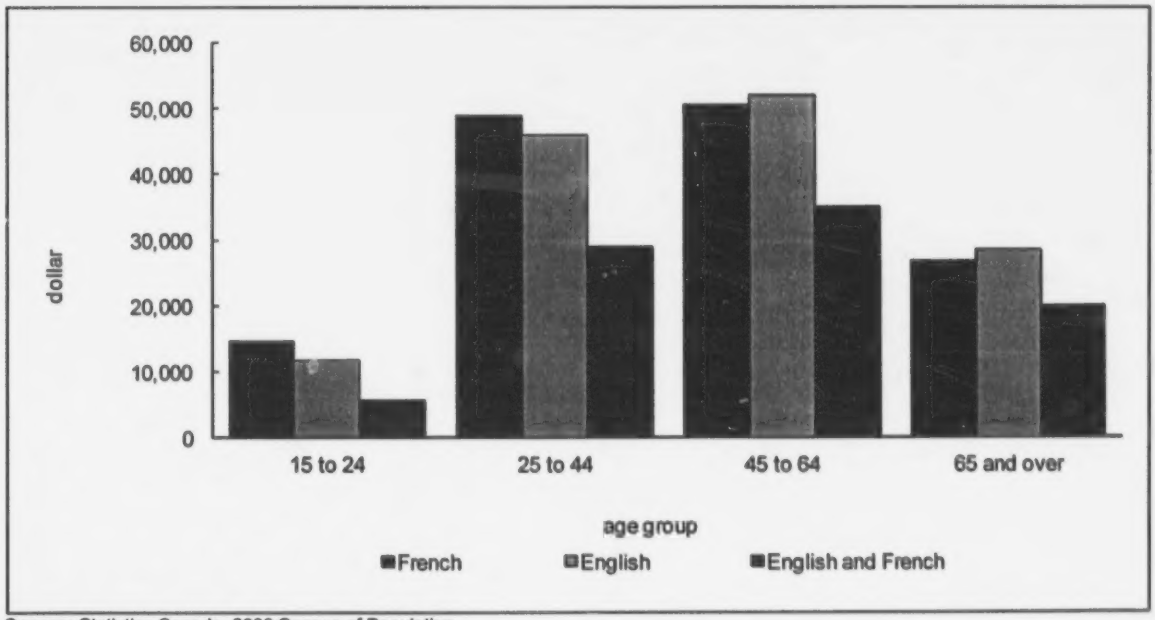
In light of the historical context described above, it is clear that the median income of the two language groups is age-related, with older Francophones having a lower median income than their Anglophone counterparts. The statistics shown in charts 4.5-a and 4.5-b reflect the fact that among persons aged 65 and over, the median income of Anglophones is higher than that of Francophones, for both men and women (although the income gaps are smaller for women). On the other hand, among 25- to 44-year-olds, the median incomes of both women and men who speak French are higher than those of their Anglophone counterparts, by $3,300 and $3,100, respectively. As for men and women for whom both French and English is their first official language spoken, their median incomes are lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. However, the income gaps are greater for men than for women.

Chart 4.5-a
Median income of women, by age group and first official language spoken, Alberta, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Chart 4.5-b
Median income of men, by age group and first official language spoken, Alberta, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Several factors may explain the income differential between Francophones and Anglophones. Although results on the general population reveal that, for both men and women, Francophones' mean incomes exceed those of Anglophones, these differences are due in part to a number of characteristics that distinguish these two populations. For example, as previously noted, Alberta's Francophone population under 65 of age is more educated than the Anglophone population. The age structure of the Francophone population is also a factor affecting the mean and median incomes of this population.

A deeper analysis of the census results, in particular using the technique of multivariate statistical analysis, reveals the important role played by age, education, type of place of residence, industry sector and immigrant status, and helps to partly explain these differences. Thus, if Francophones and Anglophones in Alberta had exactly the same profile with respect to these characteristics—which is not the case—we would not observe any statistically significant differences between the mean income of Francophone and Anglophone men or women.

Section 5 Subjective sense of vitality

In this portrait of Alberta Francophones, we have drawn a general profile of their different demolinguistic and socioeconomic characteristics. But what do we know about various key aspects of their subjective vitality, their perceptions and the value they give to the French fact in their living environment?

Results of the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) highlight at least two key elements shared by most Francophones: a strong sense of dual identification with the Francophone and Anglophone groups, and a high value given to the French language.

As regards the phenomenon of identity, the SVOLM results suggest that Francophones have a double ethnolinguistic identity: 54% of them report that they identify with both the Francophone and Anglophone groups, compared with 14% who report identifying mainly or only with the Francophone group.

Identity and the sense of belonging are highly complex concepts. Depending on the circumstances, people may identify with their country, their language, their culture, etc. The sense of double identification with the Francophone and Anglophone groups that is observed among Alberta Francophones suggests that in many cases, immersion in the primarily Anglophone culture may have contributed to an emerging phenomenon: the Francophone cultural and linguistic heritage is valued and respected while linguistic practices are influenced by the fact that one lives within the dominant and pervasive Anglophone culture. However, to verify and analyse this hypothesis would go beyond the scope of this analytical report and the limitations of the SVOLM in this regard.

Nevertheless, a number of factors indicate that Alberta Francophones assign a definite value to the French language. The majority of Franco-Albertans (57%) reported that it is important or very important to them to be able to use French in their daily life. Also, they consider it important or very important for individuals or organizations to work to develop the French-speaking community (62%), for government services to be provided in French (75%) and for linguistic rights to be respected in their province (83%).

In examining the extent to which French is used in various domains, notably regarding interactions with health care and justice system professionals as well as access to the main mechanisms for transmitting culture, we observe a phenomenon that may, on the face of it, seem contradictory: valuing a language does not necessarily translate into using it a great deal. For example, among Alberta Francophones who report that it is important or very important to be able to use French in their daily life, approximately 9 in 10 report reading newspapers in English and more than 8 in 10 report watching television, listening to the radio or using the Internet in that language. Even though French is valued and assigned great importance, the demolinguistic reality and the dynamics of the environment in which Francophones live may work against the use of that language.

The SVOLM collected data on subjective perceptions with regard to the past and future evolution of the presence of the minority language in the municipality of residence, as well as the perceived vitality of the official-language community. On this score, 45% of Francophones feel that the vitality of the French-speaking community in their municipality is weak or very weak, while 23% feel that it is neither strong nor weak. Also, when asked how the presence of French in their municipality would evolve in the next 10 years, 19% of Franco-Albertans said that this presence would increase while 45% said that it would remain the same. This is quite similar to the result obtained regarding the perception of how the presence of French had evolved in the past 10 years. It appears that Francophones in Alberta feel some concern about the presence of French in their municipality and indeed in their province.

Conclusion

This demolinguistic portrait of Alberta Francophones contains considerable and varied information on the characteristics, practices and perceptions of this language group. What stands out from all this information? While the following items are not a complete list of the key points contained in this report, they provide a general picture.

1. The French-mother-tongue population of Alberta increased by 89% from 1951 to 2006, going from 34,200 to 64,800. However, that population decreased from 1981 to 1996. The increase in the Francophone population during the 1951–2006 period was much smaller than that of the other two language groups. In fact, the English-mother-tongue population quadrupled (increasing by 300%) to 2,593,400 in 2006, while the "other"-mother-tongue population more than doubled (with an increase of 133%), totalling 598,200 in 2006 compared with 256,900 in 1951.

2. In Alberta, using the first official language spoken as criterion has very little effect on the size of the Francophone population, despite the presence of allophones. The relative share of the French FOLS population within the overall population of Alberta is 1.9% (62,790), while that of the French-mother-tongue population is 2.0% (64,750) (after equal redistribution of multiple responses).

3. The proportion of persons whose first official language spoken is French within the overall population of Alberta is 1.9%. Nearly seven Franco-Albertans in 10 reside in two census divisions (CDs): Division 6 (30% of the province's Francophones or 19,125 persons) and Division 11 (36% of the province's Francophones or 22,805 persons). Furthermore, more than half of the province's Francophones live in the cities of Calgary (27%) and Edmonton (24%).

4. From 1971 to 2006, the proportion of children from a French-English exogamous family among all families with at least one French-mother-tongue parent increased in Alberta, going from 45% to 76%. Conversely, the share of children living in an endogamous family with both parents having French as their mother tongue and the share of children whose parents formed a French-"other"-tongue exogamous couple both declined substantially, going from 37% and 18% respectively in 1971 to 17% and 8% in 2006.

5. Because of the increase in the proportion of French-English exogamous couples from 1971 to 2006, one might expect to see a decrease in the rate of transmission of the minority language (in this case, French) to children. However, it remained fairly stable. Whereas French had been passed on to 5% of the children under 18 years of age of French-English exogamous couples in 1971, the proportion was 8% in 2006. There was also an increase in the transmission of French to the children of French-"other"-language exogamous couples, from 12% to 14% during the same period.

6. From 1971 to 2006, the French-mother-tongue population saw its numbers grow by 39%, from 46,750 to 64,750. However, not all cohorts registered an increase. Firstly, the cohorts under 25 years of age decreased in size, owing to a drop in fertility among Francophone women that was due in part to a fertility rate below the replacement level. Secondly, the number of persons aged 30 and over was up because of sizable migration of the French-mother-tongue population from other provinces and territories and outside Canada. However, part of the increase in the number of seniors is explained by the aging of the population and increased life expectancy.

7. Through successive censuses, the rate of language transfer has increased for persons with French as a mother tongue in Alberta. Thus, in 1971, approximately 54% of Albertans with French as a mother tongue reported using another language, usually English, most often at home. Thirty-five years later, 69% of French-mother-tongue persons reported speaking a language other than French most often at home. Among English-mother-tongue persons, the proportion of language transfers was almost nil and remained stable over the period, registering 0.6% in 1971 and 0.4% in 2006. Among "other"-mother-tongue persons, language transfers declined over the past 35 years, going from 62% in 1971 to 46% in 2006. This major decrease is essentially the result of a strong increase in the immigrant population.

8. Overall in Alberta, a greater proportion of Francophones report using English most often at home (complete and partial language transfers) than the proportion of Francophones that report being more at ease in English than in French. Thus, around 70% of Franco-Albertans report speaking English most often at home while 54% report being more at ease in English than in French.

9. In Alberta, the population whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is French mainly uses English in both spheres. The use of English as the predominant language (mainly or only) in the home was reported by 67%; 23% spoke mainly or only French there. But the most widespread use of English is in oral interactions that take place in institutions and stores, where 96% of the French FOLS population use it predominantly while 75% use it exclusively. Beyond the language choices at home and in institutions and stores, the extent to which English is used within immediate networks, at work and in the consumption of media is roughly similar, ranging from 86% to 90% depending on the domain. With friends, data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities (SVOLM) show that 78% of persons for whom French is the first official language spoken use mainly or only English.

10. Within the overall population of Alberta in 2006, a larger proportion of persons reported being able to conduct a conversation in French (7%) than reported French alone or with another language as their mother tongue (2.1%) or than reported French as their first official language spoken (1.9%). The relative share of Albertans able to conduct a conversation in French varies from one language group to another. Approximately 9 French-mother-tongue persons in 10 reported knowing French. The proportion is 5% for persons with English as their mother tongue and 4% for those with another mother tongue. Among the latter, 7% —most of them recent immigrants—reported that they were unable to conduct a conversation in either English or French.

11. In 2006, approximately one-third of French-mother-tongue persons (35%) and French FOLS persons (32%) had been born in Alberta. Depending on the criterion used, the proportion of Alberta Francophones born in another province or a territory of Canada differs slightly; it was 54% for French FOLS persons compared with 57% for persons with French as their mother tongue. Slightly more than one-quarter of both French-mother-tongue persons and French FOLS persons had been born in Quebec. Indeed, just over one-third of Franco-Albertans were natives of Quebec or Ontario. As for foreign-born persons—most of whom were immigrants—they comprised nearly 8% of the French-mother-tongue population and 14% of the population with French as its first official language spoken.

12. Alberta receives a number of international immigrants whose first official language spoken is French. In the 2006 census count, there were 7,865 French-speaking individuals born outside Canada residing in the province. Within Alberta's immigrant population as a whole, a small proportion had French as their first official language spoken. In 2006, that relative share was 1.5%. Nevertheless, the relative weight of the French-speaking immigrant population within Alberta's Francophone population was 13% in the last census, while the relative weight of the English-speaking immigrant population within the Anglophone population was 16%.

13. From 1981 to 1991, Alberta registered negative net interprovincial migration, with a net loss of at least 25,000 persons for each five-year period. However, starting in 1991, the province posted positive net migration, with gains ranging from 3,600 for the 1991–1996 period, to 88,200 for the 2001-2006 period. Notably during the 1996–2001 period, Alberta recorded an unequalled gain of 119,400, including 113,900 Anglophones and 5,300 Francophones.

14. In the 2006 Census, 15% of the medical doctors working in Alberta—that is, 635 out of a total of 4,265—reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in French, while 2.5% reported using French at least on a regular basis in their work. For nurses, numbering 32,215, the proportions were 7% and 1% respectively.

15. The results of the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities show that almost all (97%) of Alberta Francophones report using English in their contacts with the different health care professionals about whom information was collected in that survey, namely family doctors, nurses, telephone health line or telehealth service professionals and professionals in other places where people go to obtain care.

16. According to the 2006 Census, 3% of Alberta police officers reported using French at least regularly at work. This rate is much lower than the rate for police officers' ability to conduct a conversation in French, which is 12%. The same is true for lawyers: their rate of use of French at least regularly in their work (1%) is also much lower than the proportion who are able to conduct a conversation in French, which is 17%.

17. In Alberta, 17,140 children of Francophone parents were enrolled in elementary or secondary school at the time of the survey. Of those children, 43% were receiving an education in French, including 25% in a French school and 18% in a French immersion program in an English school. Of the rest of such children who were enrolled in elementary or secondary school, 54% were attending an English-language school (regular program).

18. In 2006, Francophones (20.5%) and Anglophones (20.3%) are almost equally as likely to have a university degree at or above the bachelor level. Francophones (18.7%) are also proportionately as likely as Francophones (18,6%) to have no certificate, diploma or degree. However, a slightly higher proportion of Anglophones (23.7%) than Francophones (20.6%) had a high school diploma or the equivalent.

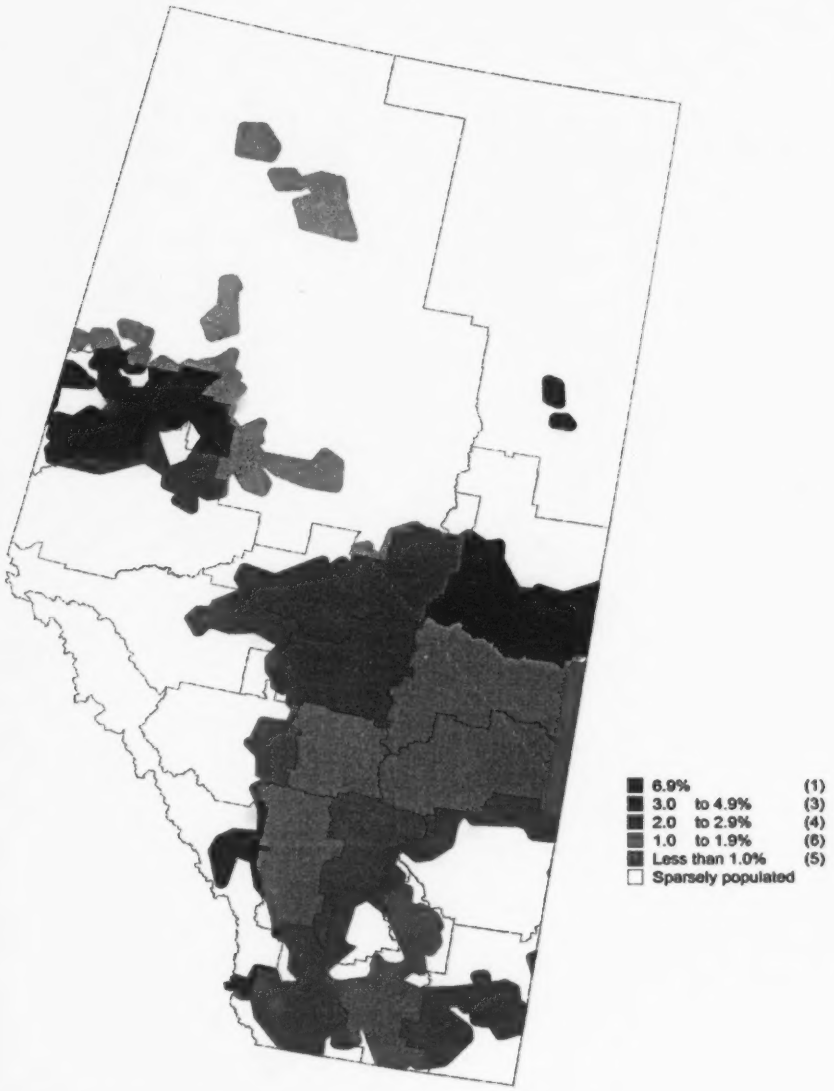
19. The 2006 statistics reveal that the mean and median incomes of persons with French as their first official language spoken are slightly higher than those of Anglophones. Men with French as their only first official language spoken (FOLS) have a mean income $500 higher than men with English as their only FOLS. A larger gap is observed between these two language groups with respect to median income, since that of Francophone men is $3,200 higher than that of Anglophone men. Among women, the mean and median incomes of Francophones are respectively $1,400 and $2,000 higher than those of Anglophones. As for the mean and median incomes of persons with French and English as first official languages spoken, they are much lower than those of Francophones and Anglophones. For the population with a dual FOLS, the lower incomes seem to be explained by the fact that these people are mainly immigrants.

20. Results from the Survey on the Vitality of the Official-Language Minorities suggest that Francophones have a double ethnolinguistic identity: 54% of them report that they identify with both the Francophone and Anglophone groups, compared with 14% who report identifying mainly or only with the Francophone group.

21. The majority of Franco-Albertans (57%) reported that it is important or very important to them to be able to use French in their daily life. Also, they consider it important or very important for individuals or organizations to work to develop the French-speaking community (62%), for government services to be provided in French (75%) and for linguistic rights to be respected in their province (83%).

Geographical maps

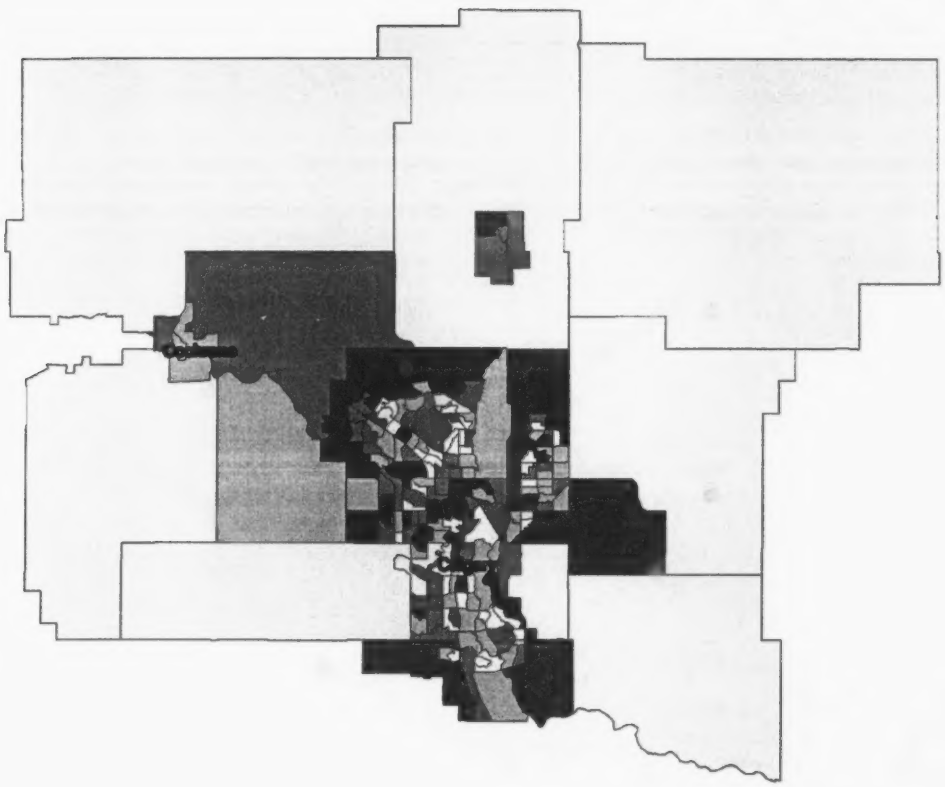
Map 1.1
Percentage of the population with French as first official language spoken (with random [27] distribution of the English-French category), by census division, Alberta, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

27. The random distribution of the English-French category was implemented with the help of SAS software (RANUNI command) to attribute half of this category to the French group.

Map 1.2
Distribution of the population with French as first official language spoken (with random[28] distribution of the English-French category) within the Census Metropolitain Area of Calgary, by census tract, 2006

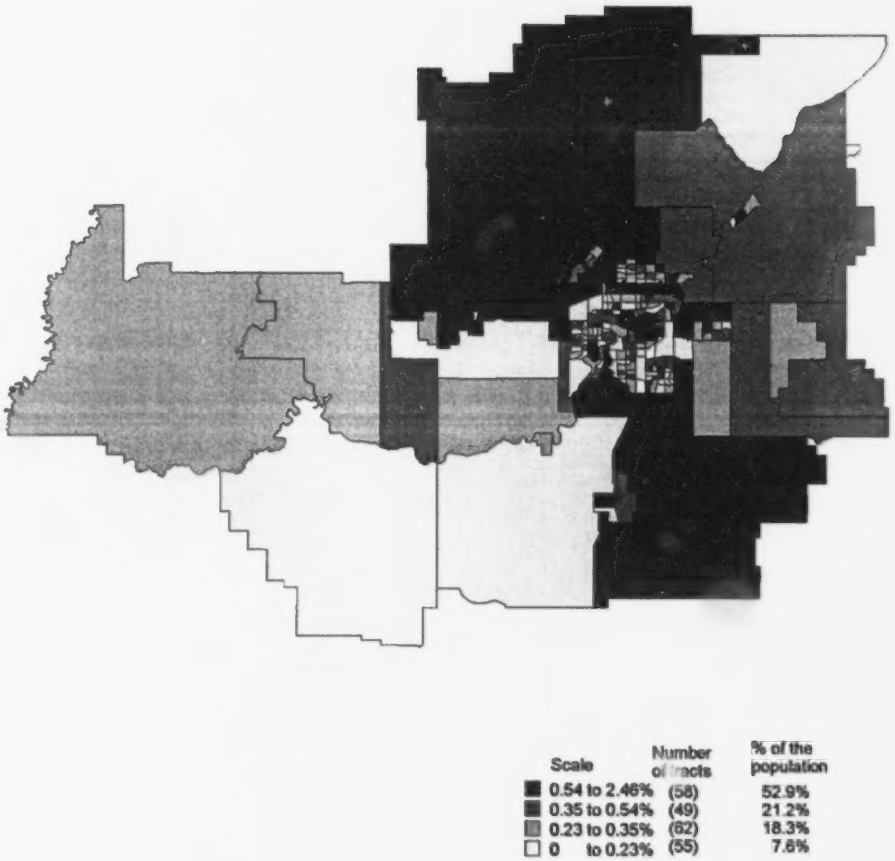


Scale	Number of tracts	% of the population
0.64 to 1.96%	(48)	44.8%
0.44 to 0.64%	(52)	28.5%
0.28 to 0.44%	(24)	17.1%
0 to 0.28%	(22)	9.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

28. The map's scale refers to the proportion of the Francophone population of a given census sector within the entire Francophone population of the census metropolitan area.

Map 1.3
Distribution of the population with French as first official language spoken (with random [29] distribution of the English-French category) within the Census Metropolitan Area of Edmonton, by census tract, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

29. The map's scale refers to the proportion of the Francophone population of a given census sector within the entire Francophone population of the census metropolitan area.

Appendix A

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 1	**0.9**	**630**
Cypress County	1.1	75
Medicine Hat	0.9	500
Forty Mile County	0.3	10
Redcliff	0.7	35
Division No. 2	**1.0**	**1,345**
Warner County	0.3	10
Milk River	1.3	10
Raymond	0.8	25
Lethbridge County	0.3	30
Lethbridge	1.1	820
Coalhurst	1.6	25
Nobleford	1.4	10
Picture Butte	1.6	25
Coaldale	0.7	45
Taber (4802021) MD	0.2	10
Taber (4802022) T	0.2	15
Barnwell	1.6	10
Newell County	0.7	50
Tilley	2.6	10
Brooks	1.9	235
Duchess	1.0	10
Bassano	2.3	30

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 3	**0.6**	**208**
Magrath	1.0	20
Cardston	0.3	10
Pincher Creek No. 9	0.9	30
Pincher Creek	1.8	65
Cowley	4.5	10
Willow Creek	0.6	30
Granum	2.4	10
Claresholm	0.7	25
Nanton	0.5	10
Division No. 4	**0.4**	**40**
Acadia	1.8	10
Special Area	0.5	10
Hanna	0.4	10
Oyen	1.1	10
Division No. 5	**0.9**	**450**
Vulcan County	0.4	15
Champion	2.8	10
Wheatland County	1.2	95
Strathmore	1.3	135
Hussar	4.3	10
Rockyford	2.9	10
Drumheller	1.2	85
Morrin	3.9	10
Kneehill County	1.0	50
Acme	3.1	20

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 6	**1.7**	**19,125**
Foothills	1.0	188
High River	0.8	85
Turner Valley	1.3	25
Black Diamond	1.6	30
Okotoks	1.4	235
Rocky View	1.1	363
Calgary	1.7	17,098
Chestermere	1.2	110
Cochrane	1.8	250
Airdrie	1.4	415
Beiseker	1.9	15
Crossfield	0.8	20
Mountain View County	0.8	103
Carstairs	2.3	60
Didsbury	0.6	25
Olds	1.0	70
Sundre	0.4	10
Division No. 7	**1.0**	**385**
Provost No. 52	0.6	15
Provost	1.0	20
Hughenden	6.1	15
Coronation	1.5	15
Castor	2.7	25
Stettler County	0.5	25
Stettler	0.6	30
Flagstaff County	0.6	20
Daysland	1.9	15
Killam	1.0	10
Sedgewick	1.1	10
Wainwright No. 61	1.3	45
Wainwright	2.4	125
Irma	4.5	20

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 8	**1.2**	**2,023**
Red Deer County	1.1	213
Innisfail	0.8	60
Penhold	2.3	45
Red Deer	1.5	1,233
Sylvan Lake	1.1	115
Norglenwold	3.7	10
Lacombe County	0.6	60
Blackfalds	1.0	45
Lacombe	0.9	90
Alix	1.2	10
Ponoka County	0.5	45
Ponoka	0.7	45
Rimbey	1.4	30
Samson	0.3	10
Division No. 9	**0.7**	**150**
Clearwater County	0.6	75
Caroline	2.9	15
Rocky Mountain House	1.1	75

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 10	**1.1**	**910**
Camrose County	0.3	20
Rosalind	7.9	15
Bawlf	2.7	10
Camrose	0.7	110
Hay Lakes	2.8	10
Beaver County	1.1	60
Ryley	2.2	10
Minburn County	0.8	25
Vegreville	1.9	100
Mannville	1.3	10
Vermilion River County	0.8	60
Lloydminster (Part)	1.6	250
Kitscoty	1.4	10
Vermilion	0.6	25
Two Hills County	1.1	30
Myrnam	6.1	20
Two Hills	2.4	25
Lamont County	1.0	40
Andrew	6.7	30
Mundare	5.2	35
Chipman	4.2	10
Lamont	1.0	15
Bruderheim	1.2	15

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 11	**2.1**	**22,805**
Wetaskiwin County	0.3	35
Wetaskiwin	1.4	160
Ma-Me-O Beach	6.5	10
Millet	1.9	40
Leduc County	2.6	330
Beaumont	5.9	528
New Sarepta	3.7	15
Leduc	1.9	323
Devon	1.2	75
Calmar	0.8	15
Thorsby	1.6	15
Drayton Valley	1.2	80
Brazeau County	0.5	35
Parkland County	1.4	395
Spring Lake	2.0	10
Stony Plain	1.8	215
Spruce Grove	1.5	290
Strathcona County	1.6	1,318
Fort Saskatchewan	1.9	280
Sturgeon County	4.1	765
Edmonton	2.1	15,365
St. Albert	3.0	1,713
Gibbons	2.5	65
Redwater	0.7	15
Bon Accord	2.6	40
Morinville	6.1	405
Legal	16.0	190
Alexander	1.1	10

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 12	**6.9**	**4,098**
Cold Lake	7.5	895
Bonnyville	6.7	680
Lakeland County	7.8	495
Bonnyville	8.6	490
Glendon	2.4	10
Pelican Narrows	10.3	15
St. Paul County	11.0	650
Elk Point	2.1	30
St. Paul	11.4	550
Horseshoe Bay	58.1	125
Smoky Lake County	0.6	20
Lac la Biche	4.3	115
Division No. 13	**2.0**	**1,305**
Lac Ste. Anne County	1.8	170
Mayerthorpe	2.2	30
West Cove	5.6	10
Onoway	1.1	10
Sunrise Beach	5.9	10
Barrhead County	1.1	65
Barrhead	1.6	65
Westlock County	2.8	195
Woodlands County	1.3	55
Whitecourt	2.7	245
Westlock	2.2	105
Clyde	3.2	15
Thorhild County	0.5	15
Thorhild	2.2	10
Athabasca County	2.7	203
Boyle	3.0	25
Athabasca	0.6	15
Bondiss	7.7	10

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (continued)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 14	**2.6**	**733**
Yellowhead County	2.0	205
Hinton	3.9	375
Edson	1.9	150
Division No. 15	**3.8**	**1,275**
Crowsnest Pass	1.7	95
Kananaskis	4.8	20
Bighorn	0.8	10
Canmore	4.8	578
Improvement District	8.3	78
Jasper	4.0	168
Banff	4.7	315
Division No. 16	**3.0**	**1,585**
Wood Buffalo	3.1	1,580
Gregoire Lake	8.3	10
Division No. 17	**1.7**	**993**
High Prairie	4.1	110
Swan Hills	3.3	55
Northern Sunrise County	18.3	320
Big Lakes	2.6	153
Slave Lake	1.7	115
Opportunity	0.4	10
Lesser Slave River	1.4	40
Nampa	2.8	10
Clear Hills	0.7	20
Northern Lights	0.8	30
Manning	1.0	15
High Level	1.0	40
Mackenzie	0.5	50

Table A
Francophone population of Alberta by region, census division and census subdivision, 2006 (end)

Census division and census subdivision[1]	Francophone population	
	percentage	number
Division No. 18	**2.0**	**285**
Fox Creek	0.4	10
Grande Cache	3.6	130
Greenview	2.3	128
Valleyview	0.6	10
Division No. 19	**4.5**	**4,438**
Grande Prairie County	2.4	425
Beaverlodge	2.2	50
Wembley	2.8	40
Grande Prairie	2.4	1,130
Sexsmith	1.3	25
Peace River	6.4	395
McLennan	19.9	155
Donnelly	41.4	120
Falher	52.7	495
Girouxville	57.9	165
Birch Hills County	9.9	145
Spirit River	2.3	15
Rycroft	2.4	15
Spirit River	1.9	20
Saddle Hills County	2.2	55
Fairview	1.4	45
Peace	0.7	10
Berwyn	2.9	15
Grimshaw	2.0	50

1. The list excludes census subdivisions where there are little or no Francophones.
Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Appendix B

Table B-1
Proportion of Francophones by language use in various domains of the public and private spheres, Alberta, 2006

Language	Home		Friends		Immediate networks		Work		Institutions and stores		Media	
	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV	%	CV
Mainly or only French[1]	23	8.8	10 [E]	18.4	4	16.5	5 [E]	24.6	x	x	2 [E]	24.4
English and French	9 [E]	18.4	12	13.9	10	14.3	9 [E]	18.7	3 [E]	22.2	8 [E]	17.7
Mainly or only English[2]	67	3.8	78	3.1	86	1.8	86	2.2	96	0.8	90	1.5
Total	**100**	**0.0**	**100**	**0.0**	**100**	**0.0**	**100**	**0.0**	**100**	**0.0**	**100**	**0.0**

1. Refers to the sum of the "French only" and "Much more French than English" categories of the survey questionnaire.
2. Refers to the sum of the "English only" and "Much more English than French" categories of the survey questionnaire.
CV coefficient of variation
Note: The term Francophone refers to the first official language spoken.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006.

Appendix C

Note on the construction of the daily language use indices

The indices used in section 3 were developed in the following manner. Whether it comes to the use of French or English, in all cases where people use only the majority language, they are assigned a value of 1, while those who use only the minority language are assigned a value of 5. In general, most questions consisted of a scale with five levels. For certain questions, there were only three possible categories: "French", "French and English", and "English". The median category therefore corresponds to a value of 3.

Two approaches were used to present the results covering each of the indices: one by language categories, the other by average level of use of languages. The second approach consisted essentially of summing the values obtained from each of the questions and dividing this sum by the number of questions answered by the respondent. For the first approach, the average scores obtained were regrouped into five categories. However, given that the results consisted of a continuous scale from 1 to 5, we identified thresholds which allowed us to redistribute the values among the following five language categories: "Only the majority language", "Mainly the majority language", "Both languages equally", "Mainly the minority language", "Only the minority language". The corresponding thresholds for these categories are as follows: "1 to 1.49", "1.50 to 2.49", "2.50 to 3.49", "3.50 to 4.49" and "4.50 to 5.0". Since no perfect solution exists to carry out such a distribution, this approach has the advantage of centering the values on either side of the median category and cutting down the range of values at the extremities of the scale.

Finally, the general language use index was drawn up not by using the average values for all 23 variables, but by adding the value obtained for the question on languages used with friends to the average values obtained on each of the four following indices: languages at work, immediate contacts, institutions and media. Such an approach offers the advantage of not assigning too much importance to a domain made up of numerous questions to the detriment of another composed of fewer questions.

Lastly it should be noted that information covering language used at home was used in the same manner as that regarding friends. By using both the information on language spoken most often and language spoken regularly, the variable created is made up of the same five categories explained above.

Appendix D

Description of concentration index

Dissemination area: a small, relatively stable geographic unit. All dissemination areas have roughly the same number of residents, namely 400 to 700 persons. For a complete definition, see the 2006 Census Dictionary.

The **definition of concentration** takes into account both the proportion and the number of official-language minority persons within a dissemination area. A strong concentration of the minority group exists when the Francophone population within a dissemination area makes up at least 50% of the overall population or at least 200 persons. An average concentration refers to a situation where the proportion is at least 10% but less than 50% and the number of Francophones is equal to or more than 50 but less than 200. Finally, the concentration of Francophones is considered to be weak when their proportion within the dissemination area is less than 10% or their number is less than 50 persons.

Once a concentration class (ie. weak, average or strong) was assigned to all the dissemination areas in a given municipality (or census subdivision), we chose to assign to the Francophone population of that municipality the concentration class (or level) containing the largest proportion of the minority population. The total, which represents the largest portion of the total Francophone population of the municipality, tells us the concentration class assigned to Francophones of that municipality. In other words, when we state that 87.3% of the Francophones living in Alberta are weakly concentrated within their municipality of residence, this means that 87.3% of them live in municipalities where, in the majority of cases, either their number is lower than 50 persons or their proportion is lower than 10% of the population within their dissemination area of residence.

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